

effects in India during FY 2014-15 when imports of total steel (Alloy + Non Alloy) increased by 75.5%. The Government of India accordingly increased the peak rate of basic Customs Duty to 15% from 10% in the Union Budget 2015-16. Government also took trade remedial measures like imposition of Anti Dumping Duty (ADD), Safeguard Duty (SD), Minimum Import Price (MIP), Countervailing Duty (CVD) and issue of Quality Control Orders to prevent import of substandard products.

(b) and (c) A few steel companies who are in substantial debt have been referred to National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT). Strategic disinvestment of following three units of SAIL is being done on the basis of In-principle approval of the Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA) in October, 2016:

1. Salem Steel Plant (SSP);
2. Visveswaraya Iron and Steel Plant (VISP); and
3. Alloy Steel Plant Durgapur (ASP).

These units are not getting closed but the intention is to improve the performance by inducting strategic partner with technology, funds and efficient management.

Steel industry dependent on coking coal imports

3821. SHRI K. R. ARJUNAN: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the domestic steel industry is highly dependent on coking coal imports;

(b) whether it is also a fact that efforts were being made to reduce reliance on imported coking coal by producing more steel in the BF-BOF (blast furnace-basic oxygen furnace) route; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI VISHNU DEO SAI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) BF-BOF (blast furnace-basic oxygen furnace) route depends on the use of coking coal for the production of steel. More production of steel making through BF-BOF route will require additional coking coal, however, specific consumption of coking coal is likely to decrease due to technological intervention. The capacity of steel making by BF-BOF route over the last three years and the present year is as under:—

Steel making capacity through BF-BOF Route (in MT)

Year	BF-BOF (MT)
2014-15	43.53
2015-16	47.35
2016-17	50.85
2017-18 (P)	51.35

(P) Provisional.

Source: JPC.

Plans to develop and diversify steel companies

3822. DR. V. MAITREYAN: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has any plans to develop and diversify the steel companies and encourage the private players in this field;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether domestic steel industry is facing acute shortage of iron ore and processed steel;

(d) if so, the steps being taken to meet the growing need of high quality iron ore and processed steel in the domestic market;

(e) whether Government proposes any exclusive policy or norms for re-use and reprocessed iron from scraps for domestic industry; and

(f) if so, the details thereof and Government's stand on this?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI VISHNU DEO SAI): (a) and (b) Steel is a de-regulated sector. Government's role is that of a facilitator which lays down the policy guidelines and establishes the institutional mechanism/structure for creating conducive environment for improving efficiency and performance of the steel sector.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) and (f) National Steel Policy, 2017 provides for facilitating ensuring the availability of sufficient quantities of good quality scrap, establishment of an organized and environment friendly steel scrap processing units within the country by promoting modern steel shredding plants.