

Improvement in performance of PSUs in steel sector

†1229. MS. SAROJ PANDEY: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has directed Public Sector Undertakings of steel sector, including Steel Authority of India Limited (SAIL) to improve their performance on various parameters as against private companies and if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether the Public Sector Undertakings are not only lagging behind the international benchmarks, but are also behind their private counterparts and are indifferent towards tapping their potentials; and

(c) the corrective steps proposed to be taken by Government in this regard and the progress made so far in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI VISHNU DEO SAI): (a) There are two steel manufacturing Public Sector Undertakings under Ministry of Steel namely Steel Authority of India Limited (SAIL) and Rashtriya Ispat Nigam Limited (RINL). The Government reviews and evaluates Public Sector Undertakings in the steel sector on the basis of their own performance on various parameters in the MoUs as entered into by them with Ministry of Steel.

(b) and (c) Most of the Integrated Steel Plants in the Public Sector under Steel Authority of India Limited (SAIL) were set up in 1960s and 1970s except Vishakhapatnam Steel Plant (VSP) of Rashtriya Ispat Nigam Limited (RINL) which was set up in 1990s. Some of the technologies and equipments adopted therein have since become old and obsolete. Accordingly, techno-economic efficiency parameters are also not at par with modern plants set up in the country. Both the Public Sector Undertakings have taken up modernisation/expansion programmes to *inter-alia* address the problem of technological obsolescence.

Amendment of Handloom Reservation Act to protect handloom industry

1230. CH. SUKHRAM SINGH YADAV:

SHRI NEERAJ SHEKHAR:

SHRI VISHAMBHAR PRASAD NISHAD:

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) the steps taken to amend Handloom Reservation Act to protect handloom industry from powerlooms;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.