

Pollution control equipment in steel plants

1275. DR. FAUZIA KHAN: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

- (a) whether pollution control equipment has not been installed in various steel plants;
- (b) if so, the details thereof along with the reasons therefor; and
- (c) the steps taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL (SHRI DHARMENDRA PRADHAN): (a) to (c) Ministry of Environment and Forest and Climate Change has notified environment norms under Environment (Protection) Act, 1986. Every steel plant is required to obtain "Consent to Operate" after installation of necessary pollution control equipment and before commencement of operations. The steel plants have accordingly been complying with the environmental norms which are monitored by Central/ State Pollution Control Boards.

Disinvestment of sail units

1276. SHRI SAMBHAJI CHHATRAPATI: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has not yet found good buyers for Steel Authority of India Limited (SAIL) Units in West Bengal, Tamil Nadu and Karnataka despite the extension of the last date of submission of bids thrice;
- (b) whether Government has undertaken any serious review of the functioning of these units which are presently loss-making;
- (c) what are the major problems due to which these units are suffering; and
- (d) the reasons due to which SAIL is not interested in upgradation of these units?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL (SHRI DHARMENDRA PRADHAN): (a) The Government has taken a decision for Strategic Disinvestment of Alloy Steel Plant, Durgapur, West Bengal; Salem Steel Plant, Salem, Tamilnadu and Visvesvaraya Iron and Steel Plant, Bhadravathi, Karnataka; units of Steel Authority of India Limited, to strategic buyer identified through two stage auction process. The Expression of Interest (Eoi)

from prospective interested bidders have since been received in respect of Salem Steel Plant and Visvesvaraya Iron and Steel Plant.

(b) Yes, Sir. The production and performance of various Steel Plants of SAIL including these units has been reviewed from time to time.

(c) The SAIL units which have been identified for disinvestment have been making continuous losses on account of:-

- Higher logistic cost of input raw materials.
- Higher cost/volatility in prices of inputs like power/scrap/alloying elements etc.
- Agile competition with respect to prices.
- Higher interest and depreciation cost.
- Overcapacity and cheap imports.

(d) SAIL has completed Modernization & Expansion Plan (MEP) of Salem Steel Plant at a cost of ₹2,371 crore to produce 180,000 Tonnes Per Annum (TPA) of stainless steel slabs. SAIL has also invested in overall growth and profitability of Visvesvaraya Iron and Steel Plant and Alloy Steel Plant from time to time.

Demand and production of steel industry

1277. SHRI MAHESH PODDAR: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) the levels of demand and production in the Iron and Steel industry of the country for April-August, 2020;

(b) the levels of demand, production and export of steel industry undertakings for April-August, 2020;

(c) the measures being taken by Government to promote domestically manufactured iron and steel products to the consumers at international price for export; and

(d) what steps Government is taking to replace imports with domestic steel?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL (SHRI DHARMENDRA PRADHAN): (a) The details of production and demand/consumption of total finished steel (alloy and non-alloy) in