

comparison to their original time schedule alongwith the details of each project in this regard; and

(d) the increase in the original construction cost of each projects due to this delay?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI BRAJ KISHORE TRIPATHY): (a) No, Sir. Steel Authority of India Ltd., has recently completed the implementation of modernisation schemes at Durgapur, Rourkela and Bokaro Steel Plants.

(b) to (d) Does not arise.

Action Plan to promote indigenous steel production

†3102. SHRI ANANATRAY DEVSHANKER DAVE: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether any action-plan has been formulated to promote indigenous steel production so as to export it in international market;

(b) whether private sector participation is being encouraged to achieve the set targets;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the difficulties presently being faced by the Indian Steel Industry?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI BRAJ KISHORE TRIPATHY): (a) to (c) No, sir, Government has not formulated any Action Plan to promote indigenous production of steel for export purposes. As per the existing policy, exports of iron and steel are freely allowed. Production and exports of iron and steel and their destination depend on several factors such as domestic and international demand, domestic prices, prices in importing countries etc. These factors are usually dynamic and change frequently. Based on the prevailing market conditions, enterprises both in public and private sectors themselves explore and tap the export markets.

†Original notice of the quesiton was received in Hindi.

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(d) The Indian Steel Industry at present is facing difficulties due to several factors. These include.

- i) Sluggish demand in the steel consuming sectors
- ii) Overall economic slow down in the country
- iii) Dumping of finished steel by CIS and other countries
- iv) Competition with cheap imports
- v) Concessional rate of duty on steel imports for infrastructure projects
- vi) Anti Dumping duty/Countervailing Duty petitions against Indian Steel by EU, USA and Canada.

Production Target of SAIL for 2000-2001

3103. SHRI ANANTA SETHI: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Steel Authority of India Limited has stepped up production target for 2000-2001;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the achievement made in that regard, so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI BRAJ KISHORE TRIPATHY): (a) and (b) The target for the production of saleable steel by the Steel Authority of India Limited (SAIL) for the year 2000-2001 has been set at 10.21 million tonnes by the Company as against the target of 9.5 million tonnes in the previous year.

(c) Upto November, 2000, SAIL has produced 6.44 million tonnes of saleable steel.