

criticised the recent UN Security Council Resolution 984 containing negative security assurances to non-nuclear-weapon states parties to NPT, since it discriminates between UN members and is not legally binding.

Steel Development Fund Levy

7689. SHRI PHOOL CHAND VERMA: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether the stoppage of the recovery of Steel Development fund levy has led to an increase in the profits earned by the Public Sector Undertakings in the Steel sector;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the production cost of steel has increased on account of increase in the price of coal;

(d) if so, the approximate percentage of increase in production cost; and

(e) the measures proposed to be taken to make the production of Steel remunerative?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV): (a) and (b) The Steel Development Fund levy was an element of the sale price and it was recovered from the customers and deposited with the Designated Authority. After de-regulation, main producers are free to fix their own prices. Consequent upon the withdrawal of the Steel Development Fund levy, the main producers have suitably adjusted the base prices of their different steel products. Impact of withdrawal of the levy on the profits of the Public Sector and other Integrated Steel Plants through which SDF levy was realised would depend on various factors such as quantum of sales achieved, escalation in input costs, etc.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. Due to increase in coal price and royalty on coal, the cost of saleable steel produced by SAIL has increased by about 2% during 1994-95.

(e) The Public Sector Steel Plants have been taking

the following steps on a continuous basic to make the production of steel remunerative:

(i) Increasing capacity utilisation.

(ii) Improving productivity.

(iii) Introducing energy conservation measures.

(iv) Improving availability of equipment through effective maintenance.

(v) Improving product-mix, making value added items and meeting customer's requirements.

(vi) Reduction in consumption viz., coke rate, stores and spares etc.

Import of Deep Sea Fishing Vessels

7690. SHRI SOBHANADREESWARA RAO VADDE: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have given permission to some shipping companies to import deep sea fishing vessels from Japan, North Korea, U.S.S.R. etc.;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reasons for importing the deep sea fishing vessels?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI TARUN GOGOI): (a) and (b) A list of companies who have been given permission to import deep sea fishing vessels through joint venture from Japan, North Korea and the erstwhile U.S.S.R. countries is given in enclosed statement.

(c) The reasons for allowing import of deep sea fishing vessels are:

1. Introduction of resource specific vessels for exploitation of non-shrimp resources since such vessels are not constructed in indigenous shipyards.

2. Joint venture projects involve transfer of technology in fishing, processing and marketing of fishery products.

STATEMENT

List of Companies who have been given permission for Import of Deep Sea Fishing Vessel under Joint Venture from Japan, North Korea and the erstwhile U.S.S.R. Countries

S.No.	Name of the Company	No. and type of vessels	Country of origin
1	2	3	4
1.	Oriental High Sea Fisheries Ltd., Vishakhapatnam.	1 Factory Trawler	Japan
2.	Fortune Oceanic Products Ltd., New Delhi.	3 Stern Trawlers	Estonia

1	2	3	4
3.	Leo Suzind Fisheries Ltd., New Delhi.	5 Stern Trawlers	North Korea
4.	Greenwave Marine Harvest Ltd., Hyderabad.	1 Stern Trawler	Ukraine
5.	Sarb Consulate Marine Products (P) Ltd., New Delhi.	5 Stern Trawlers	Ukraine

Steel Production by SAIL

7691. PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether SAIL has increased production of saleable steel in the last two years;

(b) if so, the percentage of increase of saleable steel during 1993-94 and 1994-95;

(c) whether cost of production of such steel has increased substantially; and

(d) if so, the steps proposed to be taken to control the increase in the cost of production of steel by plants under SAIL?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. SAIL Plants have increased the production of saleable steel during 1993-94 and 1994-95. The details are as follows:

Year	Saleable Steel	(Unit '000 T)
		% growth
1993-94	8645	3.7
1994-95	8962	3.7

(c) The cost of production of saleable steel produced by SAIL has not increased substantially in the last two years. At constant prices, the cost of production per tonne of saleable steel has actually come down.

(d) The steps taken to control/reduce cost of production include technology upgradation, increasing capacity utilisation, improving production & techno-economics, energy conservation measures and better deployment and maintenance of equipment.

Road Accidents

7692. SHRI MOHAN RAWALE: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Motor Vehicles Act has a provision for providing auto dipper to check road accidents;

(b) if so, the number of accidents occurred as a result

of the violation of the above provision during last one year; and

(c) the measures taken to ensure compliance of this provision of the Motor Vehicles Act?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) Yes, Sir. However, the provision of Central Motor Vehicles Rule 125 relating to auto dipper shall come from a force for heavy goods and heavy passenger vehicles from 26.3.96 and for every motor vehicle other than motor cycles and three wheelers from 26.3.97.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Open-Cast Mining

7693. SHRI S.M. LALJAN BASHA: Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to ban open-cast mining in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the rehabilitation plan for displaced persons in open-cast mining areas has been finalised; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF MINES (SHRI BALRAM SINGH YADAVA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Urban Infrastructure

7694. SHRI D. VENKATESWARA RAO: Will the Minister of URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether an international seminar on "Integrated Urban Infrastructure Development" was held in New Delhi on February 1, 1995.

(b) if so, the main points discussed in the seminar;

(c) whether it was decided that the planning and