

(c) The Andhra Pradesh Economic Restructuring Project provide resources to met priority needs in Human development viz. Primary health, nutrition and education and in the maintenance of economic assets affecting the poor (irrigation, rural roads, and core access roads). The project has six components- primary education, primary health, nutrition, roads, irrigation and public enterprises reform. The World Bank had on 5.3.99 approved a \$ 210m. Adaptable Programme Loan (APL) to support the first phase Andhra Pradesh Power Sector Restructuring Programme.

SDF Loan to Private Companies

3695. SHRI TATHAGATA SATPATHY : Will the Minister fo STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether some private sector companies have sought loan assistance from the Steel Development Fund (SDF) for setting up of steel projects;

(b) if so, the number of applications received in this regard from different private sector companies during last three years;

(c) the amount of loan assistance sought by each of those private companies; and

(d) the details of loan sanctioned from the SDF to those companies, company-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI RAMESH BAIS) : (a) to (c) Recently, three new private sector companies have sought loan assistance from SDF. The details are :-

Sl. No.	Name of the Party	Amount
1.	Ispat Industries Ltd.	Rs. 1200 crores
2.	Ispat Metallics Ltd.	Rs. 375 crores
3.	Lloyds Steel Industries Ltd.	Rs. 400 crores

(d) No, loan has been sanctioned from the SDF to these companies.

Revenue from Diesel/Petrol

3696. SHRI MOINUL HASSAN AHAMED : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the amount collected by the Government through excise duty on petrol and diesel since 1988;

(b) the amount transferred to the Central Road Fund out of these collections for road development; and

(c) if not, transferred any amount, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA) : (a) to (c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Financial Crisis in SAIL

3697. SHRIMATI JAYANTI PATNAIK : Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Steel Authority of India Limited (SAIL) has been facing serious financial crisis;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;

(c) whether one of the reasons of the crisis is due to increase of privatisation in SAIL; and

(d) if so, the details of steps taken by the Government to remove the crisis of SAIL?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI RAMESH BAIS) : (a) and (b) SAIL has been consistently making profit since 1984-85. However, during the period April-Dec., 1998, SAIL has reported a loss of Rs. 890 crores.

The main reasons for decline in profits include sluggish demand for steel, greater competition from imports arising due to lower international prices and enhancement in supplies in domestic market resulting in decline in the net realization from sales. Export prices have also declined in the international market.

While the benefits of modernization would materialize in phases, SAIL has to absorb higher capital related cost (interest and depreciation) because of capitalization of modernization/capital schemes, and also for maintaining a higher inventory level.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Government have taken following steps to improve the profitability of steel industry including SAIL and to overcome the present problems:-

(i) To boost the demand and consumption of steel, the Development Commissioner for Iron and Steel (DCI & S) has launched a National Campaign.

(ii) To reduce input costs for steel making, the special import duty on several inputs such as coaking coal (ash content <12%), metallurgical coke, ferro nickel, charge nickel and nickel oxide sinters, low silica limestone and graphite electrodes (>28") has been waived.

(iii) Anti-dumping duty on Hot Rolled Coils imported from Ukraine and Russia has been imposed.

(iv) Rationalization of Duty Entitlement Pass Book (DEPB) rates for steel exports has been carried out to boost exports.

(v) A Steel Exporter's Forum has been set up to help steel exporters overcome bottlenecks in exports.

(vi) Enhanced project financing to steel sector by All India Financial Institutions and relaxation of