

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
STEEL
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2719
ANSWERED ON:17.08.2004
STEEL POLICY
Rao Shri Sambasiva Rayapati

Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Associated Chambers of Commerce and Industry has suggested the Government to forge a steel policy which balances the need for making available adequate quantity of the commodity;
- (b) whether the policy should be taken in a manner that was compatible with the World Trade Organisation and other plurilateral policies;
- (c) whether the Government has considered the views of the industry; and
- (d) if so, the time by which final decision in this regard is likely to be taken?

Answer

MINISTER OF CHEMICALS & FERTILISERS AND MINISTER OF STEEL (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN)

(a) & (b): The Associated Chambers of Commerce & Industry (ASSOCHAM) had submitted a note in July, 2002 on a 5-point programme for revival of the steel industry. The issues raised by ASSOCHAM generally referred to the need for providing raw material at competitive prices, reduction in excise duty and other state taxes, reliable supply of power at reasonable rates, need to upgrade transport infrastructure and reduction in interest rates for financing capital projects.

(c) & (d): The issues related to several Departments of Central Government as well as State Governments. These suggestions were brought to the notice of the Ministries of Surface Transport, Finance, Shipping, Power as well as State Governments to be kept in mind at the time of review or formulation of new policy.