

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
STEEL
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3874
ANSWERED ON:02.12.2010
FOREIGN TECHNICIANS TRAINED MANPOWER FOR EXECUTION OF PROJECTS
Pradhan Shri Nityananda

Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Steel Plants need more foreign technicians/trained manpower for execution of their projects;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether there is a cap on employment of such foreigners;
- (d) if so, the details thereof;
- (e) the action plan of the Government to bridge this gap through our own trained manpower;and
- (f) the details of new steel plants being set up in the country?

Answer

MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI A. SAI PRATHAP)

(a)&(b): Steel projects being set up in the country, sometimes need to import machineries, equipment and plants from suppliers overseas. In some of the cases, steel units are also set up with foreign technology collaborations. Therefore, skilled foreign manpower is required for coordination, technical support, testing and commissioning of the plants, thus imported. The number and type of foreign skilled manpower depends upon the technology, contract between parties and the stage at which a particular project is getting commissioned.

(c)&(d): Yes, Madam. Ministry of Home Affairs has introduced a new visa regime, called Project (P) Visa for foreign manpower working in projects in power and steel sectors in India. As far as steel sector is concerned, foreign manpower is limited to 10% of total skilled manpower deployed or 300 persons per million tonne capacity whichever is lower, for greenfield projects. For brownfield projects the upper limit is 5% of the total skilled manpower deployed or 150, whichever is lower.

(e): The period of visa would be determined by the Indian Missions / Posts carefully in each case taking into account the actual duration of the project / contract. The period of visa would be initially for a period of one year or for the actual duration of the project / contract, whichever is less, with multi- entry facility. The visa can be extended only with the approval of the Ministry of Home Affairs on getting a field report from the State Government concerned and IB. The foreign plant / equipment supplier has to train indigenous personnel for further operations and maintenance of the plant, after its commissioning.

(f): As per the information available in the Ministry of Steel, 222 Memorandum of Understanding (MoUs) have been signed by various State Governments for setting up various steel units in their respective states for total capacity of approximately 276 million tonnes.