

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
STEEL
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:6255
ANSWERED ON:06.05.2013
STEEL PLANTS IN BIHAR
Singh Shri Mahabali

Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the foundation stone for setting up three steel plants one each in Bettiah, Vaishali and Gaya districts in Bihar was laid in 2008 after getting the in - principle approvals from the concerned authorities and if so, the details thereof;
- (b) whether the Steel Authority of India Limited (SAIL) has acquired the land for setting up the proposed steel plants and if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the work pertaining to the setting up of steel plant in Mahnaar and Gaya have not started even after a lapse of more than four years and if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;
- (d) whether the delay is due to fact that the land acquired for setting up the Mahnaar plant is low lying land and the land quality at Gaya is not suitable for setting up the steel plant and if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons for the delay in setting up these plants; and
- (e) whether the SAIL has taken up the matter with the State Government for redressal of the land related problems and if so, the response of the State Government thereto and the time- frame within which these plants are likely to become functional?

Answer

MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI BENI PRASAD VERMA)

- (a) Yes, Madam. The foundation stone for setting up of Steel Processing Units (SPU) were laid at Bettiah in November, 2007, at Mahnar (Distt. Vaishali) in April, 2008 and at Gaya in December, 2008 after in-principle approval of the projects by SAIL Board.
- (b)to(e) 50 acres of land was acquired in November 2007 for SPU at Bettiah, 50 acres of land was acquired in March 2008 for SPU at Mahnar and 27.3 acres of land was acquired in November 2008 for SPU at Gaya.

Soil investigation and site survey report indicated that the land is low lying at Mahnar and significant land filling is required. On account of this, the project has been found to be financially unviable and the project is on hold. For SPU at Gaya, soil investigation and site survey work has been completed. The Steel Authority of India Limited (SAIL)/Bokaro Steel Plant (BSL) had applied to Government of Bihar for conversion of Agriculture land to Industrial use. However, the agriculture land procured for the project is yet to be converted for industrial use.