

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
STEEL
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4612
ANSWERED ON:22.12.2014
JOINT VENTURE IN STEEL INDUSTRY
Premachandran Shri N.K.

Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government/SAIL proposes to set up a Titanium Sponge Factory at Chavara Kollam, Kerala in a joint venture;
- (b) if so, the details and the status thereof; and
- (c) the time by which the said factory is likely to be started?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF (SHRI VISHNU DEO SAI) STEEL AND MINES

(a)to(c): Yes, Madam. A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed on 04.04.2013 amongst SAIL and Kerala State Industrial Development Corporation Ltd. (KSIDC) & Kerala Minerals and Metals Ltd. (KMML) on behalf of Government of Kerala (GoK) to jointly explore possibilities of setting up a Titanium Sponge and Metal Complex in Kerala in Joint Venture in a phased manner.

A Joint Committee of SAIL and GoK, constituted to carry out a feasibility study of the technical and financial viability of the Titanium Sponge Project (10,000 Metric Tonne Per Annum Capacity), has completed the preliminary study based on a Techno Economic Feasibility Report (TEFR) prepared by MECON. According to the TEFR, the financial viability of the project depends upon the latest cost effective technology, which is still not available in India. Efforts to obtain transfer of technology from leading global suppliers has not been very encouraging and further course of action is dependent upon availability of Titanium production technology.