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Title: Need to ban the export of iron-ore.

SHRI RAYAPATI SAMBASIVA RAO (GUNTUR): I would like to bring to the attention of the Hon'ble Minister of Mines an important matter concerning iron ore. As is well known, export of minerals in India is guided by the EXIM policy, which regulates and promotes judicious use of iron ore for domestic purpose and export of surplus quantity. It is also reported that we have ample resources of iron ore in India. There is also a general belief that export of iron ore benefits mining sector, tertiary sector activities like shipping and road transport, and at the same time, it generates employment. There is no denying of these facts.

But a couple of months back, fear has been expressed about the fast depletion of iron ore due to rapid increase in exports. One school of thought is of the opinion that levy on iron ore export would conserve iron ore for local use, while the other opined that price of steel for infrastructure would go up. It is reported that exports of iron ore have risen by about 100 per cent because of its demand in the international market. If this trend is continued, it would be difficult to meet the domestic requirements.

Under the circumstances, I would urge upon the Government to completely ban the iron ore exports forthwith keeping in view the domestic industry.