Need for initiative to equip iron and steel based Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) with clean and sustainable manufacturing technologies.-laid

SHRI MANISH JAISWAL (HAZARIBAGH): Government schemes such as MSE Green Investment and Financing for Transformation (MSE-GIFT) and the Zero Effect Zero Defect (ZED) initiative have made some progress, but much more is needed particularly for Green Financing of energy transition in MSMEs. Iron and steel MSMEs, including for rerolling, fabrication and manufacturing products that use iron and steel as raw material, are key to India?s infrastructure, construction and economic growth. Many are export oriented. This segment of MSME is highly energy inefficient, as it relies on conventional energy and technology making it uncompetitive. There is immediate opportunity in its green energy transition. But these MSMEs lack access to sustainable technology and financial support to meet the high upfront cost of energy transition. Unlike major steel industries, no dedicated low-cost climate finance programme is available to them. Thus, they will be unable to tap the new Carbon market. I demand that a structured carbon transition framework with clear roadmap for energy efficiency incentives, including a low-cost climate finance programme, and emissions monitoring for the iron and steel based MSMEs be published by the Government, along with a dedicated initiative to equip them with expertise in clean technologies and sustainable manufacturing.