

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
STEEL
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3149
ANSWERED ON:15.03.2000
EXPORT STRATEGY FOR STEEL INDUSTRY
NITISH SENGUPTA

Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

- (a) whether any follow up action has been taken on the report submitted by an expert group in 1997 on the export strategy for Indian Steel Industry;
- (b) if so, the details of the follow up action alongwith the results thereof;
- (c) whether with the end of recession in East Asia and South-East Asia there is great potential in these areas by implementing some of the recommendation of this group and;
- (d) if so, the efforts made by the Government in this regard?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE FOR STEEL
(SHRI DILIP RAY)

(a) & (b): Yes, Sir. Salient details of the follow-up action taken keeping in view the recommendations submitted by the expert group in the year 1997 and other relevant factors are as under:-

i) A Steel Exporters Forum (SEF), an institutional set-up, has been constituted for promotion of export of Iron & Steel and to resolve common problems being faced by Iron & Steel exporters in the country. Accordingly, the representatives from the major steel producers/associations and Central government Ministries such as Steel, Finance, Surface Transport, Railways & Commerce have been included in the forum.

ii) To provide overall direction to the research efforts on iron & steel and to approve specific research projects, an Empowered Committee has been constituted.

iii) For development of ports and infrastructural facilities to facilitate exports of iron & steel, higher allocation of funds has been recommended by the Ministry of Steel.

iv) For exports of specific iron and steel items, Duty Entitlement Pass Book (DEPB) rates have been rationalised. Trends of export of iron & steel in the past few years have been encouraging.

(c) & (d): Till the recent financial crisis the South East Asian countries have been the largest importer of steel from India. However, after the Asian crisis, the region got transformed into a net exporter of steel. With the resurgence of these economies, the exports of iron & steel to these countries from India may increase.

As per the existing export-import (EXIM) Policy, import and export of steel is freely allowed. The quantity and destination of exports is decided by the individual producers keeping in view the demand, price and other factors.