

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
STEEL
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1329
ANSWERED ON:01.08.2000
CLOSURE OF STEEL MINES IN MADHYA PRADESH
RAMANAND SINGH

Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the steel mines at Babupur in Satna District of Madhya Pradesh have been closed;
- (b) if so, the reasons therefore;
- (c) the number of labourers affected as a result thereof; and
- (d) the steps taken by the Government to rehabilitate the labourers of these mines?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE FOR STEEL (SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY)

(a) & (b): The production and despatch from Ispat Limestone quarry located at Babupur, Satna District, of SAIL, RMD has been gradually tapered off due to quality reasons. The quality of limestone available in Satna is presently not acceptable for steel making due to technological changes that took place at steel plants. During earlier years, Rourkela Steel Plant (RSP) was making steel with both open Hearth Furnaces and LD convertors. Now, RSP has changed to LD convertor route only. Satna Limestone was suitable for the open Hearth process route. It is not suitable for LD process due to high percentage of silica. Presently, there is no demand for Satna Limestone. Therefore, the mines operations have been suspended w.e.f. September, 1998.

(c) & (d): No employees/ labourers have been retrenched. 174 employees of the mines opted for voluntary retirement under SAIL VRS -98 scheme in the year 1998. Again, another 280 employees of the mines opted for voluntary retirement under SAIL VRS- 99 scheme in the year 1999. Remaining employees have been redeployed to other mines/ units of SAIL.