

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
STEEL
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2873
ANSWERED ON:17.08.2004
MODERNISATION EXPANSION OF IRON ORE AND COAL MINING
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Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has taken any steps for modernisation and expansion of iron ore and coal mining in the public sector steel plants;
- (b) if so, the investments made or proposed to be made by each public sector steel plants on iron ore and coal mining;
- (c) whether these steel plants have also negotiated with respective State Government in the matter; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof and the response of the State Government thereon?

Answer

MINISTER OF CHEMICALS & FERTILIZERS AND MINISTER OF STEEL (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN)

(a) & (b): Among the public sector steel plants, only SAIL has captive iron ore mines while IISCO, a subsidiary of SAIL has captive coal mines at Chasnalla & Jitput in the state of Jharkhand and Ramnagore in the state of West Bengal. Land acquisition for Tasra Open Cast Project in Jharkhand is in the process. However, there is no proposal for modernisation/expansion of these coal mines at present.

SAIL has initiated action for modernisation/expansion of its iron-ore mines located at Bolani, Meghahatuburu, Kiriburu, Taldih & Thakurani. The Captive Mines of Bhilai Steel Plant (BSP) for Iron Ore at Dalli-Rajhara are on the verge of exhaustion and will not be in a position to cater to the total requirement of the plant beyond 2010-11. As such BSP has identified Rowghat Iron Ore deposit in Chhattisgarh and has been trying to obtain forestry and environmental clearance from State Govt. & Ministry of Environment & Forest. The proposed investment for these projects are as under:-

(Rs. in Crore)

S. No.	Name of Mine	Investment (Proposed)
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1.	Bolani Expansion	25
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2.	Meghahatuburu Central Block	90
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3.	Kiriburu South Block	90
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4.	Taldih Block	170
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5.	Thakurani Mines	150
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Total		525
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BSP has invested Rs. 2.79 crores in exploration, environmental studies and other enabling works at Rowghat . After obtaining statutory clearances, BSP proposes to invest about Rs. 1000 crores for opening the iron ore mine at Rowghat.

(c)&(d): Forestry clearance with regard to following mines of SAIL are pending with the State Governments :

S. No. Name of Mine Clearance Pending with Govt. of

1. Bolani Expansion Orissa

2. Taldih Block Orissa

3. Meghahatuburu Central Block Jharkhand

Application for Prospecting License (PL) for required land in Thakurani Block of SAIL is pending with the Govt. of Orissa. A revised application for obtaining Forestry Clearance of entire deposit of Rowghat has been submitted by BSP to Govt. of Chattisgarh. BSP has been in continuous touch with the Govt. of Chattisgarh for early clearance of this project.