

PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK) : (a) From Kapilash Road to Nergundi, the doubling work has not yet been sanctioned. From Nergundi to Cuttack, the doubling work has been sanctioned as part of the Nergundi-Cuttack-Raghunathpur Doubling, where the work is in progress between Nergundi and Kendrapara including Kendrapara Yard. From Cuttack to Barang, the field survey for doubling has since been completed and the Report is under finalisation. Further consideration will be possible only after the Survey Report becomes available and the results examined.

(b) For Nergundi-Cuttack doubling work, Rs. 9.00 crore have been allotted for the year 1998-99.

(c) Rs. 17.18 crore have been sanctioned for the year 1998-99 for the work on the 2nd Railway Bridges over the rivers Birupa and Mahanadi. No amount has, however, been sanctioned as yet for the Bridge-work on the river Kathjori.

(d) No target date of completion has been fixed up.

[Translation]

Anti-Dumping Duty of Foreign Steel

1918. SHRI MOTILAL VORA : Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state :

(a) whether an anti-dumping petition filed by M/s SAIL and others with the designated Authority in Ministry of Commerce has been decided;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether increase in the customs duties has helped in the decrease of dumping of Steel;

(d) if so, the facts thereof; and

(e) further steps being contemplated to check the dumping of Steel by foreign countries?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI RAMESH BAIS) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. An anti-dumping petition was filed by M/s SAIL and M/s Essar Steel Ltd., on behalf of the domestic steel producers with the Designated Authority in the Ministry of Commerce under the provisions of the Customs Tariff Act, alleging dumping of HR Coils/Sheets/Plates from Russia, Ukraine and Kazakhstan. The petition is supported by other major steel producers like TISCO and Lloyd Steel. Government has imposed anti-dumping duties vide Notification dated 27.11.98 in respect of Hot Rolled Coils, Hot Rolled Strips/Sheets/Plates and Boiler Quality Plates on imports from Russia and Ukraine, which shall be the

difference between the amount mentioned in column (3) below and the landed price of imports per MT.

S. No.	Item Description	Amount (Rs. per MT)
1	2	3
1.	Hot Rolled Coils	14300
2.	Hot Rolled Strips/Sheets/Plates	15000
3.	Boiler Quality Plates	22000

(c) to (e) Levy of anti-dumping duty is expected to help the indigenous steel industry.

A Working Group had been set up by Government to study the present slow down in the steel sector. The Group has since submitted its report. The recommendations of the Working Group, inter-alia includes :

- (i) To consider feasibility of converting advalorem rate of import duty into fixed duties on certain finished steel items.
- (ii) To consider a combination of measures comprising levy of special import duty on imports of seconds and defectives alongwith raising duties for certain types of steel upto World Trade Organisation bound rates.
- (iii) To consider of removal of imports of Seconds and Defectives below a specific floor price from OGL.
- (iv) Establishing a fast track mechanism, to deal with cases of dumping under the Customs Tariff Act.

The above measures, when implemented, are likely to check the dumping of steel from other countries.

[English]

Financial Condition of H.S.C.L.

1919. PROF. RITA VERMA : Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state :

(a) whether an acute financial crisis has overtaken the Hindustan Steel works Constructions Limited since the last few years;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether any enquiry has been conducted in this regard;

(d) if so, the outcome of the enquiry alongwith the action taken thereon; and

(e) the steps being taken by the Government to salvage the company from financial crisis?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI RAMESH BAIS) : (a) and (b) HSCIL has been undergoing financial difficulty for sometime. The chief reasons for the unsatisfactory financial condition include inter-alia excessive manpower, growing burden of wages and salaries, declining turnover on account of reduced work orders owing to slow down in the economy and the steel industry, and stiff competition.

(c) to (e) SBI Caps were entrusted with carrying out a study of prospects of revival. A Financial Restructuring-cum-Financial Assistance package for HSCIL's revival is presently under consideration.

[Translation]

Employment Generation in Defence Services

1920. SHRIMATI SURYAKANTA PATIL : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of employment opportunities generated in the defence services during Eighth Five Year Plan;

(b) the percentage of employment opportunities generated in each of the three services, separately and the names of States, wherefrom these opportunities have been generated;

(c) whether the defence services have not achieved the desired success in attracting the youths; and

(d) if so, the action plan formulated to generate employment opportunities in the armed forces and to make it more popular?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES) : (a) to (d) The recruitment during the said 5 year period in the Army, the Air Force and the Navy was about three lacs, twenty three thousand and fifteen thousand, respectively.

2. The recruitment of officers in all the three wings of the Armed Forces and that of Airmen and Sailors in Air Force and Navy respectively is carried out on an All-India merit basis depending on the availability of the vacancies. However, in respect of the recruitment of Personnel Below Officer Rank (PBOR) in the Army, the vacancies are allotted to various States in proportion to their respective Recruitable Male Population (RMP) figures. Considering the various modes of selection in the Defence Services, an estimation of state-wise share is not feasible.

3. There have been some shortages in certain categories of Officers cadre in the Army. Lately, however, significant improvement has been noticed in this regard.

Government have substantially increased the pay scales and the allowances of the officers and the PBORs. A sustained public campaign highlighting the opportunities awaiting the youth in the Armed Forces has been launched to attract a still better response from the eligible youth.

[English]

Railway Police Commissionerate

1921. SHRI NARESH PUGLIA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Maharashtra Government and Railways have agreed to set up an independent railway police commissionerate jointly to deal with crime in trains;

(b) if so, whether the modalities in this regard have been worked out by the Railways;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) the number of crimes on trains held in the country during the past one year, zone-wise; and

(e) the other effective steps the Government propose to take to curb the crimes?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK) : (a) No, Sir. However, in a recent meeting held with Government of Maharashtra (GOM), the Deputy Chief Minister has assured to formulate the proposal and send it for consideration of Railway.

(b) and (c) Do not arise since the proposal is yet to be received from GOM.

(d) and (e) The information is being collected from the State Government concerned as maintenance of law and order is the responsibility of the State Governments.

Cancellation of Lease Deed of Institutional Plots

1922. DR. RAVI MALLU : Will the Minister of URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the DDA has recently cancelled the lease deeds of institutional land plots;

(b) if so, the details and reasons therefor;

(c) whether a large number of residential plots or flats allotted by DDA are being used for commercial purposes; and