

**LOK SABHA**  
**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.2251**  
**FOR ANSWER ON 02/12/2019**

**CHEAP STEEL IMPORTS**

2251. SHRI CHANDRA SEKHAR BELLANA:

Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

- (a) whether there is a threat to India from cheap steel imports from Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP);
- (b) whether the steel manufacturers have welcomed India's decision to stay out of the RCEP deal to protect interests of the country; and
- (c) if so, whether the Government considers to join RCEP if India's terms and conditions are accepted and if so, the details thereof?

**ANSWER**

THE MINISTER OF STEEL

(SHRI DHARMENDRA PRADHAN)

(a)to(c): In view of huge steel capacity available with China, the Indian Steel sector could have faced threat from cheap Chinese steel imports. Under RCEP, such imports would have got the advantage of preferential tariff and harmed the Indian Steel Industry. The Government's decision not to join RCEP has been welcomed by the domestic steel industry.

During the 3<sup>rd</sup> Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) summit, which was held on 4<sup>th</sup> November, 2019 in Bangkok, India highlighted the fact that the current structure of RCEP did not fully reflect the RCEP Guiding Principles or address the outstanding issues and concerns of India, in light of which India did not join the consensus. India also stated that the Act East Policy was the bedrock of India's economic policy and India's engagement with other trading partners would continue.

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