

# AN OVERVIEW OF STEEL SECTOR

## Global Scenario

- In 2016, the world crude steel production reached 1630 million tonnes (mt) and showed a growth of 0.6% over 2015.
- China remained world's largest crude steel producer in 2016 (808 mt) followed by Japan (105 mt), India (96 mt) and the USA (79 mt).
- World Steel Association has projected Indian steel demand to grow by 6.1% in 2017 and by 7.1% in 2018 while globally, steel demand has been projected to grow by 1.3% in 2017 and by 0.9% in 2018. Chinese steel use is projected to show nil growth in 2017 and decline by 2% in 2018.
- Per capita finished steel consumption in 2016 is placed at 208 kg for world and 493 kg for China by World Steel Association.

*Note: Data for the year 2016 is provisional (source: World Steel Association report, World Steel in Figures, 2017)*

## Domestic Scenario

- The Indian steel industry has entered into a new development stage, post de-regulation, riding high on the resurgent economy and rising demand for steel.
- Rapid rise in production has resulted in India becoming the 3<sup>rd</sup> largest producer of crude steel in 2015 as well as in 2016. The country was the largest producer of sponge iron or DRI in the world during the period 2003-2015 and emerged as the 2<sup>nd</sup> largest global producer of DRI in 2016 (after Iran). India is also the 3<sup>rd</sup> largest finished steel consumer in the world and maintained this status in 2016. Such rankings are based on provisional data released by the World Steel Association for the above year.
- In a de-regulated, liberalized economic/market scenario like India the Government's role is that of a facilitator which lays down the policy guidelines and establishes the institutional mechanism/structure for creating conducive environment for improving efficiency and performance of the steel sector.
- In this role, the Government has released the National Steel Policy 2017, which has laid down the broad roadmap for encouraging long term growth for the Indian steel industry, both on demand and supply sides, by 2030-31.
- The said Policy is an updated version of National Steel Policy 2005 which was released earlier and provided a long-term growth perspective for the domestic iron and steel industry by 2019-20.
- The Government has also announced a policy for providing preference to domestically manufactured Iron & Steel products in Government procurement. This policy seeks to accomplish PM's vision of 'Make in India' with objective of nation building and encourage domestic manufacturing and is applicable on all government tenders where price bid is yet to be opened. Further, the Policy provides a minimum value addition of 15% in notified steel products which are covered under preferential procurement. In order to provide flexibility, Ministry of Steel may review specified steel products and the minimum value addition criterion.

## Production

- Steel industry was de-licensed and de-controlled in 1991 & 1992 respectively.
- India is currently the 3<sup>rd</sup> largest producer of crude steel in the world.
- In 2016-17 (prov.), production for sale of total finished steel (alloy + non alloy) was 100.74 mt, a growth of 10.7% over 2015-16.
- Production for sale of Pig Iron in 2016-17 (prov.) was 9.39 mt, a growth of 1.8% over 2015-16.
- India was the largest producer of sponge iron in the world during the period 2003-2015 and was the 2<sup>nd</sup> largest producer in 2016 (after Iran) . The coal based route accounted for 79% of total sponge iron production in the country in 2016-17 (prov).
- Data on production / production for sale of pig iron, sponge iron and total finished steel (alloy/stainless + non-alloy) are given below for last five years and April-May 2017:

Indian steel industry :(in million tonnes)						
Category	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17*	April-May 2017*
Pig Iron Production for sale	6.870	7.950	9.694	9.228	9.391	1.53
Sponge Iron Production	23.01	22.87	24.24	22.43	24.39	4.23
Total Finished Steel Production for sale (alloy/stainless + non alloy)	81.68	87.67	92.16	90.98	100.74	17.48
Source: Joint Plant Committee; *prov.						

## Demand - Availability

- Industry dynamics including demand – availability of iron and steel in the country are largely determined by market forces and gaps in demand-availability are met mostly through imports.
- Interface with consumers exists by way of meeting of the Steel Consumers’ Council, which is conducted on regular basis.
- Interface helps in redressing availability problems, complaints related to quality.

## Steel Prices

- Price regulation of iron & steel was abolished on 16.1.1992. Since then steel prices are determined by the interplay of market forces.
- Domestic steel prices are influenced by trends in raw material prices, demand – supply conditions in the market, international price trends among others.
- An Inter-Ministerial Group (IMG) is functioning in the Ministry of Steel, under the Chairmanship of Secretary (Steel) to monitor and coordinate major steel investments in the country.
- As a facilitator, the Government monitors the steel market conditions and adopts fiscal and other policy measures based on its assessment. Currently, GST of 18% is applicable on steel and there is no export duty on steel items. The government has also imposed

export duty of 30% on all forms of iron ore except low grade (below Fe 58%) iron ore lump & fines and iron ore pellets both of which have nil export duty.

- In view of rising imports, the Government had earlier raised import duty on most steel items twice, each time by 2.5% and imposed a gamut of measures including anti-dumping and safeguard duties on a host of applicable iron and steel items. In a further move to curb steel imports, the Indian government banned the production and sale of steel products that does not meet Bureau of Indian Standard (BIS) approval and to check the sale of defective and sub-standard stainless steel products used for making utensils and various kitchen appliances, it issued the Stainless Steel (Quality Control) Order, 2016 for products used in making utensils and kitchen appliances, that will help filter imports of the metal. Again, in February 2016, the Indian Government had imposed the Minimum Import Price (MIP) condition on 173 steel products. The MIP was extended thrice and ceased to be effective in February 2017. Currently, a mix of anti-dumping /safeguard and other measures are in place on a range of steel items to control the inflow of cheap steel. Further, a Steel Price Monitoring Committee has been constituted by the Government with the aim to monitor price rationalization, analyze price fluctuations and advise all concerned regarding any irrational price behaviour of steel commodity.

### Imports

- Iron & steel are freely importable as per the extant policy.
- Data on import of total finished steel (alloy/stainless + non alloy) is given below for last five years and April-May 2017:

<b>Indian steel industry : Imports (in million tonnes)</b>						
Category	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17*	April-May 2017*
Total Finished Steel (alloy/stainless + non alloy)	7.93	5.45	9.32	11.71	7.23	1.06
Source: Joint Plant Committee; *prov.						

### Exports

- Iron & steel are freely exportable.
- India emerged as a net exporter of total finished steel in 2016-17 (prov.)
- Data on export of total finished steel (alloy/stainless + non alloy) is given below for last five years and April-May 2017:

<b>Indian steel industry : Exports (in million tonnes)</b>						
Category	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17*	April-May 2017*
Total Finished Steel (alloy/stainless + non alloy)	5.37	5.99	5.59	4.08	8.24	1.38
Source: Joint Plant Committee; *prov						

## Levies on Iron & Steel

### *SDF levy*

- This was a levy started for funding modernisation, expansion and development of steel sector. The Fund, inter-alia, supports :
  1. Capital expenditure for modernisation, rehabilitation, diversification, renewal & replacement of Integrated Steel Plants.
  2. Research & Development
  3. Rebates to SSI Corporations
  4. Expenditure on ERU of JPC
- The SDF levy was abolished on 21.4.94
- Cabinet decided that corpus could be recycled for loans to Main Producers
- Interest on loans to Main Producers is set aside for promotion of R&D on steel etc.
- An Empowered Committee has been set up to guide the R&D effort in this sector.
- *EGEAF* – Was a levy started for reimbursing the price differential cost of inputs used for engineering exporters. Fund was discontinued on 19.2.96.

## Opportunities for growth of Iron and Steel in Private Sector

### The New Industrial Policy Regime

The New Industrial policy opened up the Indian iron and steel industry for private investment by (a) removing it from the list of industries reserved for public sector and (b) exempting it from compulsory licensing. Imports of foreign technology as well as foreign direct investment are now freely permitted up to certain limits under an automatic route. Ministry of Steel plays the role of a facilitator, providing broad directions and assistance to new and existing steel plants, in the liberalized scenario.

### The Growth Profile

*(i) Steel* : The liberalization of industrial policy and other initiatives taken by the Government have given a definite impetus for entry, participation and growth of the private sector in the steel industry. While the existing units are being modernized/expanded, a large number of new steel plants have also come up in different parts of the country based on modern, cost effective, state-of-the-art technologies. In the last few years, the rapid and stable growth of the demand side has also prompted domestic entrepreneurs to set up fresh greenfield projects in different states of the country.

Crude steel capacity was 126.33 mt in 2016-17 (prov.), up by 3.6% over 2015-16 and India, which emerged as the 3<sup>rd</sup> largest producer of crude steel in the world in 2016 as per provisional ranking released by the World Steel Association, has to its credit, the capability to produce a variety of grades and that too, of international quality standards. The country is expected to become the 2<sup>nd</sup> largest producer of crude steel in the world soon.

*(ii) Pig Iron*: India is also an important producer of pig iron. Post-liberalization, with setting up several units in the private sector, not only imports have drastically reduced but also India has turned out to be a net exporter of pig iron. The private sector accounted for 92% of total production for sale of pig iron in the country in 2016-17 (prov.). The production for sale of pig iron has increased from 1.6 mt in 1991-92 to 9.39 mt in 2016-17 (prov.).

*(iii) Sponge Iron:* India, world's 2<sup>nd</sup> largest producer of sponge iron (2016, prov.), has a host of coal based units located in the mineral-rich states of the country. Over the years, the coal based route has emerged as a key contributor and accounted for 79% of total sponge iron production in the country. Capacity in sponge iron making too has increased over the years and stood at around 43 mt (2015-16).

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