

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF STEEL

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1591
FOR ANSWER ON 31.07.2026

ROADMAP TO ENCOURAGE STEEL INDUSTRY

1591. DR. SIKANDER KUMAR:

Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

- (a) the specific roadmap, budgetary allocation and fiscal incentives planned to encourage artificial intelligence, digital mining and smart manufacturing adoption across the Indian steel industry;
- (b) the details of financial and operational parameters that led to granting Miniratna Category-I status to MECON Limited;
- (c) whether Government has set a target timeline to link Himachal Pradesh's small-scale steel manufacturers with national digital supply chains for transparent raw material sourcing, if so, the efforts made in this regard; and
- (d) the steps taken by Government to protect domestic steel industry from predatory pricing and dumping imports?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE (SHRI BHUPATHIRAJU SRINIVASA VARMA)
MINISTRY OF STEEL

- (a) The Ministry of Steel has issued guidelines for promoting digital transformation in the steel Central Public Sector Enterprise (CPSEs) for adoption of advanced digital technologies, including Artificial Intelligence (AI), Machine Learning (ML), Internet of Things (IoT), Digital Twins, automation, predictive analytics and smart manufacturing.
- (b) MECON Limited was granted Miniratna Category-I status as it fulfills the criterion prescribed by Department of Public Enterprises for granting of Miniratna Category-I status as per O.M. No. 11/36/97-Fin. dated 09.10.1997 issued by Department of Public Enterprises.
- (c) The steel sector is a deregulated sector, where decisions are taken by the individual steel companies based on commercial considerations and market dynamics.
- (d) Government has taken following steps to increase the domestic production and to reduce dependency on imports:-
 - i. In the Union Budget 2026-27, following measures were taken to support domestic manufacturers and boost domestic steel manufacturing:-

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- a. Nil Basic Customs Duty (BCD) has been continued on Ferro-Nickel
 - b. The basic custom duty exemption has been extended up to 31.03.2028 on Ferrous Scrap, Magnesium Oxide (MgO) coated cold rolled steel coils for use in manufacture of cold rolled grain oriented steel and Specified goods for the manufacture of cold rolled grain-oriented steel.
- ii. Anti Dumping Duty (ADD) measures pertaining to some steel products like seamless tubes, pipes and hollow profiles of iron, alloy, or non-alloy steel (other than cast iron and stainless steel) (from China PR), electro-galvanized steel (from Korea RP, Japan, Singapore), stainless-steel seamless tubes and pipes (from China PR), welded stainless steel pipes and tubes (from Vietnam and Thailand), Hot rolled flat products of alloy or non-alloy steel (from Vietnam), Cold Rolled Non-Oriented Electrical Steel (from China PR), are currently in place.
- iii. Countervailing Duty (CVD) is in place for Welded Stainless Steel Pipes and Tubes from China and Vietnam.
- iv. Government has imposed safeguard duties on import of “Non-Alloy and Alloy Steel Flat Products” into India for a period of three years, on the subject goods falling under tariff headings 7208, 7209, 7210, 7211, 7212, 7225 and 7226 to safeguard the interests of domestic steel industry.
