

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.3550
FOR ANSWER ON 15/12/2014

R&D IN STEEL SECTOR

3550. SHRI B. VINOD KUMAR:
KUMARI SHOBHA KARANDLAJE:
SHRI ARJUN MEGHWAL:

Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government proposes to set up any Steel Research and Technology Mission of India as a forum for Research and Development (R&D) activities in the steel sector;
- (b) if so, the details thereof along with the funds allocated/utilised for R & D in the steel sector during each of the last three years and the current year, PSU-wise;
- (c) the achievements made in the field of R&D in steel sector during the said period, PSU-wise; and
- (d) the measures taken by the Government to increase investment in R&D activities in the steel sector?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI VISHNU DEO SAI)

(a)&(b): Ministry of Steel is facilitating setting up of an industry driven Steel Research & Technology Mission of India (SRTMI) to address the need of R&D and to promote nationally relevant research programmes in steel sector. SRTMI is proposed to be formed as a registered society in close co-operation among the steel companies, Ministry of Steel, academia and relevant R&D institutions in the country.

According to the available information, the funds utilized for R&D by the steel companies in the Public Sector under Ministry of Steel in the last three years and the current year are given below:-

(Rs. in crore)

Steel Company	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15 (April-September)
SAIL	142.00	156.00	121.00	82.00
RINL	20.29	31.13	50.27	11.74

(c) There have been notable achievements from the R&D programmes pursued by the aforesaid companies during this period which inter-alia covers the following:-

- Raw Materials upgradation,
- Improvement in Process/ Technology, Products and Productivity,
- Development of New products & improvement in Quality, and
- Improvement in Energy consumption & Environment Management.

- (d) Measures taken by the Government to increase the R&D in the steel sector:-
- Ministry of Steel has been providing financial assistance from Steel Development Fund (SDF) and Plan Fund.
 - Ministry of Steel had published 'A Roadmap for Research & Development and Technology for Indian Iron & Steel Industry' in Sept., 2011 with an aim to sensitize the Indian steel industry to improve its technological face through R&D and technology intervention. The Roadmap recommended that major steel companies must increase their R&D investment to 1% of sales turnover by the terminal year of the 12th Five Year Plan (2016-17) and 2% by 2020.
 - The Working Group on Steel Industry for Twelfth Five Year Plan had also recommended increasing the R&D investment by the steel companies to 1% of the turnover by the end of the 12th Five Year Plan.
 - Ministry of Steel has also advised all main/ major steel companies in the country to enhance their R&D investment as per the above recommendations.
 - Ministry of Steel is now facilitating the creation of a new & innovative mechanism viz. Steel Research & Technology Mission of India, to promote joint collaborative research programmes of national importance, which will inter-alia enhance the R&D investment in the sector.
