GOVERNMENT OF INDIA MINISTRY OF STEEL

RAJYA SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 633 TO BE ANSWERED ON 29/11/2024

LOW STEEL PRICES

633. Shri Raghav Chadha:

THE MINISTER OF STEEL

Will the Minister of Steel be pleased to state:

(a) in what manner does Government view the impact of a 45-month low in domestic steel prices on the steel industry and related sectors;

(b) the measures in place to support steel manufacturers facing oversupply and reduced demand;

(c) whether Government has assessed the potential effects of low steel prices on employment within the steel sector;

(d) the strategies being considered to boost demand for steel domestically, especially in infrastructure projects; and

(e) whether Government is exploring avenues to increase steel exports or regulate supply to stabilize domestic prices?

ANSWER

(SHRI H. D. KUMARASWAMY)

(a)to(e): Steel is a deregulated sector and steel prices are determined by demand supply dynamics of market forces. Low steel prices also help in reduction in production cost of user industries. Production and demand of steel have shown strong growth in India during 2023-24 and April-October 2024 as given below: -

	Crude Steel Production		Finished Steel Consumption	
Year	Quantity (in million tonnes)	%change	Quantity (in million tonnes)	%change
2023-24	144.30	13.4	136.29	13.7
April-October 2024-25*	85.40	3.6\$	85.70	12.7\$
Source: Joint Plant Committee (JPC); *provisional; \$ Over corresponding period of last Financial Year				

As a result of the Government's measures, steel capacity in the country has expanded from 144 million tonnes in 2020-21 to 180 million tonnes at present which has contributed to growth of employment in the steel sector.

Government's policy emphasizing on infrastructure development through significant capex for Pradhan Mantri Gati-Shakti Master Plan, Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana etc. provide impetus to the demand and consumption of steel in the country. Exports of steel depends on global economic scenario and decisions regarding steel exports is taken by steel companies based on market dynamics.