

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF STEEL

**RAJYA SABHA**  
**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.133**  
FOR ANSWER ON 05/12/2013

**SETTING UP OF SPONGE IRON PLANTS**

133. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT:

Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that substantial number of sponge iron plants have been shut up in various parts of the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and reasons for their shutting up; and
- (c) the action Government proposes to take for the revival of these plants?

**ANSWER**

THE MINISTER OF STEEL

(SHRI BENI PRASAD VERMA)

(a)to(c): Some Sponge Iron Plants have shut down in states of Karnataka, Maharashtra, Odisha, Jharkhand and Chhattisgarh. There are more than 400 Sponge Iron Units in India. Steel is a deregulated sector and Ministry does not have information of setting up or shutting down of individual units. However, Sponge Iron Plants shut down because of various factors like economic slowdown, un-competitiveness due to technological factors, non-availability of iron ore/coal/natural gas etc. Government has no control on deregulated steel sector.

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