

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.5030
FOR ANSWER ON 26/03/2018

EXPORT/IMPORT OF GRAPHITE ELECTRODES

5030. SHRI OM BIRLA:

Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of total quantity of graphite electrode exported and imported by the Government during each of the last three years and the current year;
- (b) whether there has been a sharp incline in price of graphite electrodes during recent years as a result of which steel manufacturers especially at smaller levels are unable to operate in Indian market and if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor along with the corrective steps taken by the Government to provide relief to these smaller steel units;
- (c) whether the Government has imposed/proposes to impose an export tax on graphite electrodes in order to provide relief to the local smaller steel units and if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor; and
- (d) the other steps taken by the Government to encourage the growth of the small steel companies in the country?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR STEEL

(SHRI VISHNU DEO SAI)

- (a) The quantity of import and export of graphite electrodes by Indian firms during the last three years and for the current year is as:-

(Quantity in Tonnes)

Year	Import	Export
2014-2015	13,771.9	69,044.3
2015-2016	6,852.1	52,778.3
2016-2017	4,056.7	62,575.7
Apr.-Nov., 2016	3,018.2	35,019.7
Apr.-Nov., 2017	2,600.8	52,278.2

Source: DGFT, Ministry of Commerce

(b)&(c): The price of graphite electrodes has increased globally and domestically, particularly since August, 2017, due to demand-supply gap. As steel sector is deregulated, the impact of prices on steel manufacturers depends on commercial arrangements with graphite electrode suppliers and the situation in spot market. The Government has made a provision for imposing export duty of 20% on graphite electrodes by bringing in appropriate amendment in the Finance Bill 2018.

(d) To encourage the growth of small steel companies in the country, the National Steel Policy 2017 has been notified on 8th May, 2017 which inter-alia encourages raw material availability, energy efficient technologies etc. to improve the performance of small steel companies.
