

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF STEEL

RAJYA SABHA
STARRED QUESTION NO. *131
FOR ANSWER ON 13/03/2023

UNDERUTILISATION OF RINL VISAKHAPATNAM

131 SHRI V. VIJAYASAI REDDY:

Will the Minister of Steel be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Rashtriya Ispat Nigam Ltd. (RINL), Visakhapatnam is currently operating at one-third of its capacity despite its capacity having been expanded from 3.2 million tonnes per annum (MTPA) to 7.3 MTPA with huge investment;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;

(c) whether it is also a fact that RINL being a shore-based plant, the equipment are subject to severe corrosion having surrounded by saline atmosphere; and

(d) if so, the steps being taken by Government to operate RINL at its full capacity?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STEEL

(SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA)

(a)to(d): A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (A) TO (D) OF THE RAJYA SABHA STARRED QUESTION No.*131 FOR ANSWER ON 13/03/2023 TABLED BY SHRI V. VIJAYASAI REDDY, MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT REGARDING “UNDERUTILIZATION OF RINL, VISAKHAPATNAM”.

(a)&(b): No, Sir. Rashtriya Ispat Nigam Ltd. (RINL), Visakhapatnam is currently operating at 68% of 6.3 MTPA capacity (upto February, 2023). Though, the Blast Furnace and Steel Melt Shop are modernized and enhanced to 7.3 MTPA, the downstream integrated steel producing capacity has not been expanded to 7.3 MTPA capacity.

(c) Yes, Sir. Visakhapatnam Steel Plant being a shore-based plant, the equipment is exposed to corrosion. This aspect is considered while procurement of equipment at project stage and also during operations of the plant.

(d) The following steps have been taken to operate RINL at its full capacity:-

- (i) Ministry of Steel has taken up with Ministry of Coal for supply of coking coal to RINL.
- (ii) State Government of Odisha has been requested for reservation of an Iron ore block in favour of RINL.
- (iii) RINL has also requested various State Governments viz. Odisha, Chhattisgarh for recommending reservation of iron ore deposit under Section 17A(2A) of MMDR Act 2015 to the Ministry of Mines, Government of India.
- (iv) RINL has taken up the matter with lending banks for fresh loans at competitive interest rates to ensure working capital requirements.
- (v) Discussions and deliberations are on to discuss how the constraints can be overcome.
