

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF STEEL

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.619
FOR ANSWER ON 07/02/2018

INDIGENOUS PRODUCTION OF HIGH-QUALITY STEEL

619. SHRI SAMBHAJI CHHATRAPATI:

Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

- (a) whether India is still dependent on import of high-quality steel for use in several high-end sectors like defence, space, nuclear, etc. despite being third largest producer of iron and steel;
- (b) whether it is a fact that Government and private sectors spend negligible funds towards Research and Development (R&D) in the field of iron and steel technology; and
- (c) the steps Government has taken to fund R&D generously and even encourage private sector to put in funds for R&D to the tune of one per cent of the cost of products as is the practice in USA, China and Japan?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR STEEL

(SHRI VISHNU DEO SAI)

- (a) India is third largest steel producer and manufacturing several grades of steel, but dependent on imports of high quality steel required for critical applications mainly due to lack of economies of scale in production, non-availability of required technology, inadequate cost competitive advantage etc.
- (b) Yes, Sir. The expenditure on Research and Development in the public as also in the private steel sector is very small in India compared to many major steel producing nations such as Japan and Korea.
- (c) Government has taken the following steps to enhance R&D expenditure in Indian Steel sector:-
1. Steel companies have been pursued from time to time to enhance investment on R&D.
 2. National Steel Policy 2017 has been published by the Government which focuses on stepping up R&D initiative and investment in steel sector.
 3. Steel Research and Technology Mission of India (SRTMI) has been setup in order to boost innovation in the steel sector.
