

**LOK SABHA**  
**STARRED QUESTION NO.\*377**  
**FOR ANSWER ON 07/01/2019**

**R&D IN STEEL SECTOR**

\*377. SHRI SHARAD TRIPATHI:

Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government is aware that the Steel industry needs to be provided with the latest world class technology urgently to improve its production capacity;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken by the Government in this regard;
- (c) whether the public and private sector iron and steel companies are conducting research and development (R&D) activities in the iron and steel sector;
- (d) if so, the details thereof including the total amount allocated and spent for the purpose and the achievements of these companies during the last three years and the current year; and
- (e) whether the Government had introduced a new scheme during the 12<sup>th</sup> Five Year Plan to provide an impetus to R&D activities and if so, the details thereof?

**ANSWER**

THE MINISTER OF STEEL

(SHRI CHAUDHARY BIRENDER SINGH)

(a)to(e): A Statement is laid on the Table of the Lok Sabha.

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**STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (A) TO (E) OF THE LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. \*377 FOR ANSWER ON 07/01/2019 TABLED BY SHRI SHARAD TRIPATHI, MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT REGARDING "R&D IN STEEL SECTOR"**

(a)&(b): Yes, Madam. Steel industry is a deregulated sector and the role of Government is that of a facilitator. Government undertakes R&D for the sector to address relevant issues through budgetary support. Results of the R&D for the sector are made available in public domain for adoption by the industry. However, the decision regarding introduction of technologies to be deployed are essentially taken by the respective iron and steel companies based on techno-economics of the specific technologies.

(c)&(d): The steel companies in public and private sector are conducting research and development (R&D) in iron and steel sector. The details of the R&D expenditure of the public sector enterprises are given below:-

S. No.	CPSE	R&D Expenditure (Rs. crore)		
		2015-16	2016-17	2017-18
1	Steel Authority of India Limited(SAIL)	277.00	339.43	335.50
2	Rashtriya Ispat Nigam Limited(RINL)	21.74	23.52	20.06

(e) Research & Development is an on-going activity. The Government started the scheme with Plan Fund for support of R&D during the 11th Five Year Plan, to pursue R&D projects on national importance, under the head "**Promotion of R&D in Iron and Steel Sector**". The Scheme was continued in the 12th Plan and is still on-going.

Under the scheme, in the 12th Plan, projects have been approved with a total cost of Rs. 97.71 crore with approved financial assistance of Rs. 73.85 crore from Ministry of Steel. During 2018-19 & 2019-20, Rs.15 crore per annum has been allocated under the scheme.

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