

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF STEEL

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 3539
FOR ANSWER ON 17.12.2024

DELAYS IN NO OBJECTION CERTIFICATES

3539. SMT. PRATIMA MONDAL:

Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) the reasons for the suspension of Quality Control Committee meetings since September 2024, which has resulted in delays in issuing No Objection Certificates (NOCs) for imported steel consignments, causing significant losses to importers;

(b) the steps being taken to address the concerns raised by Micro, Small & Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) regarding high domestic steel prices and alleged cartelization by large steel manufacturers, which are making it difficult for small manufacturers to compete; and

(c) the reason why policies aimed at protecting domestic steelmakers have led to indiscriminate application of BIS requirements, prolonged port delays, and increased costs for steel-consuming industries and that corrective measures are being implemented to streamline imports without compromising domestic interests?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE (SHRI BHUPATHIRAJU SRINIVASA VARMA)
MINISTRY OF STEEL

(a)&(c): Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) in consultation with Ministry of Steel has been taking steps to ensure that only quality steel is produced in the country or imported from outside. In this direction, 151 BIS standards have been notified and have been covered by Quality Control Orders (QCOs) by Ministry of Steel, in line with the vision of the Government for Make in India and Atmanirbhar Bharat and to ensure that only quality steel is made available to the end users & the public at large. This ensures that the steel produced domestically or imported into the country conforms to BIS standards and sub-standard steel is neither produced nor imported.

Any import of steel from outside can be done with a BIS licence. However, some steel grades, which are not yet covered by BIS standards, can be imported with a No Objection Certificate (NOC) from Ministry of Steel. The applications are looked into diligently by a committee constituted for this purpose. The committee takes decisions on the NOC applications as per prescribed norms. A new portal has already been put in place to further streamline the NOC application process.

(b) Steel is a de-regulated sector where prices of steel are determined by market dynamics and fluctuate depending on its availability. The Government acts as a facilitator, by creating a conducive policy environment for the development of steel sector in the country.
