

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF STEEL

**RAJYA SABHA**  
**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.2607**  
FOR ANSWER ON 15/12/2011

**PROMOTION OF R&D IN IRON AND STEEL SECTOR**

2607. SHRI KISHORE KUMAR MOHANTY:

Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that the scheme 'Promotion of Research and Development in Iron and Steel Sector' is still moving at snail's pace without adequate fiscal allocation for the last three years;
- (b) if so, the reasons for lethargic functioning of this scheme which was initiated specifically to increase steel production and to reduce dependency on the imported cooking coal;
- (c) the steps taken by Government for optimum functioning of this programme and fiscal allocation estimated during the current year; and
- (d) the details thereof?

**ANSWER**

THE MINISTER OF STEEL

(SHRI BENI PRASAD VERMA)

(a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise in view of (a) above.

(c)&(d): Based on the recommendations of the Working Group on Steel Industry, a new scheme i.e. Scheme for Promotion of R&D in Iron and Steel Sector with an outlay of Rs.118.00 crore has been launched by the Government during Eleventh Five Year plan. Further, it has been decided by the Expenditure Finance Committee (EFC) to pursue R&D on three broad areas namely (i) Development of innovative/path breaking technologies utilizing Indian iron ore fines and non coking coal (ii) Improvement of quality of steels produced through induction furnace route and (iii) Beneficiation of raw materials like iron ore, coal etc. and agglomeration (e.g. Pelletization). The aforesaid R&D scheme was actually approved on 23.01.2009 by Ministry of Finance with an instruction that due to the fag end of the year, the scheme may be operated in the next financial year i.e. 2009-10.

Under this scheme, so far, 8 R&D projects, recommended by the Group of Experts, have been approved by the designated Project Approval and Monitoring Committee (PAMC). The total cost of these projects is Rs.143.87 crore, of which, Government grant is Rs.96.23 crore. So far Rs.39.02 crore has been disbursed.

The fiscal allocation for the year 2011-12 is Rs.29.0 crore, against which Rs.7.84 crore has been released in 4 R&D projects.

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