

Aruna Sharma takes charge as Steel Secretary

In a major reshuffle at the secretarial level of the Central government, senior IAS officer Aruna Sharma will take charge as Secretary of Ministry of Steel, while Aruna Sundarajan will take over as Secretary, Ministry of Electronics and Information & Technology.

In other changes, Bhanu Pratap Sharma, Secretary, Department of Health and Family Welfare has been moved to the Department of Personnel and Training as Secretary.

AK Dubey, Special Secretary, Ministry of Coal will join the Department of Youth Affairs as Officer on Special Duty and will take charge as Secretary after the incumbent Rajiv Gupta retires.

Further, M Sathivathy, Director General, Directorate General of Civil Aviation, has been moved to the Ministry of Labour and Employment as Officer on Special Duty. She will take charge as Secretary after the incumbent Shankar Agarwal retires.

Dinesh Singh, Special Secretary, Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation, has been moved to Department of Land Resources as Officer on Special Duty. Singh will take over as Secretary once the



incumbent VS Madan retires. Amarjit Singh, Special Secretary, Ministry of Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation, has been made Officer on Special Duty in the same ministry where he would take over as Secretary once the incumbent Shashi Shekhar retires.

Rakesh Srivastava, a 1981 IAS from the Rajasthan Cadre, has been brought to the

Centre in the post of the Secretary, National Commission for Backward Classes. Latha Krishna Rao, a 1982 batch IAS from the Karnataka cadre, has been brought to the Centre as Secretary, Department of Social Justice and Empowerment, Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment.

C. K Mishra, Additional Secretary, Department of Health and Family Welfare, will take charge as Secretary in the same Ministry as the incumbent Bhanu Prasad Sharma has been transferred to the Department of Personnel and Training.

N.S Kang, Additional Secretary, Department of Health and Family Welfare, has been appointed as Secretary and Director General, National AIDS Control Organisation.

B. K Prasad, Additional Secretary, Ministry of Home Affairs, has been transferred as Secretary, National Commission for Denotified, Nomadic & Semi-Nomadic Tribes.

Amarjeet Sinha, Additional Secretary, Department of Rural Development, has been appointed Secretary, Department of Rural Development.

Tata Steel plans to double Indian workforce's productivity

India's Tata Steel Ltd. plans to double the productivity of its workforce in its domestic operations in the next five years as it seeks to be more competitive, a senior company official said.

This will be achieved in various ways including a reduction in the size of the workforce through a voluntary retirement scheme which the steelmaker has put in place and a lower annual recruitment plan, said the official, who asked not to be named as details of the plan have not yet been made public. Tata Steel did not respond to a request for comment on the plan. In its annual report published recently though, Tata did acknowledge that, employee productivity continues to be a focus area.

Tata will also focus on further automation and restructuring at its flagship 10 million tonnes a year plant at Jamshedpur, which will help bring down its costs, the official said. At the same time the company has to tackle the problems faced by its business in Europe, where it has halted the sale of its Port Talbot plant in Wales following the UK vote to leave the European Union.

Tata banked heavily on global growth in the second half of the last

decade with acquisitions in Europe and South East Asia. The moves pushed it deep into debt however, and as steel demand overseas shrunk it has been Tata's Indian operations which have continued to cushion the steelmaker's financial performance.



Moreover, India is one of the few bright spots in the global steel market. Indian steel consumption increased by over 4 percent in 2015 and is expected to grow further this year while global steel demand dropped 3 percent last year and is expected to continue to shrink this year. However, Indian steel producers are still faced with overcapacity due to rising imports, causing companies to find ways to stay competitive. "We have to cut a lot of flab to come level with rivals in India," the official said. In the financial year 2015-16, employee productivity rose to 701 tonnes of crude steel per full

time employee (FTE), up from 623 tonnes of crude steel per FTE during the previous year, according to Tata's annual report. The company official said Tata now aims to more than double employee productivity from these levels by 2020-21.