



# Steel industry on course for a bright future

**- Vishnu Deo Sai**

Union Minister of State for Steel

Since May 26, 2014, Shri Vishnu Deo Sai, has taken over the mantle as the Union Minister of State for Steel. He has been elected Member of Parliament for the fourth consecutive time from Raigarh constituency of Chhattisgarh.

Vishnu Deo was also the Minister of State for the Ministry of Labour and Employment from 26th May 2014 to 8th November 2014. He has also served as the Minister of State in the Ministry of Mines from May 26, 2014 to July 5, 2016.

Vishnu Deo Sai embarked upon his political career as a Sarpanch of Bagia village. He was elected as a Member of Legislative Assembly of Madhya Pradesh from Tapkara constituency of the State (this constituency no longer exists) for two consecutive terms. He was also the President of the Bharatiya Janata Party of Chhattisgarh from 2006- 2010 and from January 2014 to August 2014. The minister has been giving due attention to the welfare of the backward classes, especially the tribals and poor.

In an exclusive interaction with Steelworld, the minister delves on the likely impact of the new National Steel Policy on the steel industry and the government's commitment to ensure quality of the steel produced in the country for different critical end use. He also spoke about the various steps being taken by the center in modernization, expansion, renovation of existing steel plants as well as setting up of new plants with state of the art technologies and production facilities to ensure quality at all stages of production and attain the government's goal of attaining 300 MT of steel production by 2030- 31.

## Excerpts

***What impact do you expect from the National Steel Policy on the industry in the coming years?***

National Steel Policy (NSP) 2017 has been formulated after deliberations with all the stakeholders and keeping in view the long term growth of the steel sector in the country. Our government is committed for

the development of the country and steel sector will surely keep pace with it. The probable impact of National Steel Policy 2017 will be seen in the coming years and I am sure that it will increase the steel production capacity of our country. It also focuses on enhancing per capita steel consumption of the country. NSP 2017 will also lead to increased investment in greenfield and brownfield projects both from domestic sources as well as FDI. NSP 2017 will also facilitate raw material security which has been the concern for the sector. New capacities for high end steel through technology transfers and JVs will be seen as an impact of NSP 2017.

***What initiatives is the Ministry taking to boost steel demand in the country?***

The Ministry of Steel has taken various measures to boost steel demand in the country. GFR amendment has been made to include life cycle cost analysis. Task force/Committees involving relevant ministries which are potential users/



consumers of steel have been constituted to suggest ways to increase uses of steel. Social media initiatives that connect with people to increase awareness about usage of steel have been taken.

**What steps are being taken to ensure quality of steel production in the country?**

*The Government is taking several initiatives to facilitate production of quality steel for different end user applications. A gist of these initiatives is give below:*

Having noted the importance of quality steel in housing, infrastructure, construction and various other critical sectors, Ministry issued two quality control orders in March, 2012 covering thereby 16 products having direct bearing on safety and security of infrastructure, housing & construction sector, and hence the public at large. The orders have already been implemented on 15 products.

Further, the present government has issued one more quality control order in December, 2015 covering thereby 15 additional steel products used in critical infrastructure and engineering / automotive applications.

Subsequently, in June, 2016 government has issued another quality control order notifying 3 stainless steel products used in manufacture of utensil, kitchenware and in various engineering applications.

Originally, the Indian Standards notified in the quality control orders mentioned above covered limited grades / types of steel and accordingly, many more grades / types of steel were outside the purview of the quality control order. However, at the instance of Ministry of Steel as well as producers / users, several

standards have been revised by BIS to include most of these grades thereby enlarging the coverage of steel products under the Quality Control Orders.

In addition to the above, Government is also facilitating modernization / expansion / renovation of existing steel plants as well as setting up of new plants with state of the art technologies / production facilities to enable production of quality steel at competitive cost. Today, the Indian steel industry is in a position to produce most of the stringent varieties of steel products including some of the high end varieties of automotive steel.

Ministry of Steel is aware about the quality related problems and issues being faced by the Induction Furnace Units. Accordingly, Ministry of Steel pursued several R&D projects through National Metallurgical Laboratory, Jamshedpur and NISST, Mandi Gobindgarh to facilitate production of quality steel induction furnace. The results are quite encouraging. Further, to facilitate production of high end varieties of structural steel, Ministry of Steel is pursuing a few more R&D projects.

