

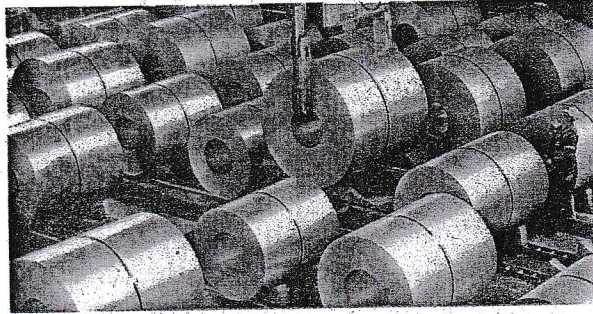
# Public sector steel units have deployed 42% of FY24 capex till Sept: Ministry review

**Abhishek Law**  
New Delhi

The central public sector enterprises (CPSEs) under India's Steel Ministry have spent 42 per cent of their FY24 capex targets within the first half (April-September), a review by the ministry shows. The CPSEs have exceeded their six-month capex target by 22-odd per cent.

Against an FY24 budget estimate of ₹10,300.85 crore, CPSEs deployed ₹4,315.06 crore till September-end as capex. As per the Ministry's plan, at least a third of the budget estimate, that is ₹3,540 crore, was to be spent by September. "So CPSEs under Steel (Ministry) spent ₹775 crore more than their targeted capex, up 22 per cent over target numbers till September-end," a Ministry official said.

Mining company NMDC Ltd and its steel-making unit NSL



**SPENDING SPREE.** The Steel Ministry review shows steel PSUs overshot the 6-month capex target by 22 per cent

(NMDC Steel Ltd) together invested the most in manufacturing capex.

## MAJOR INVESTMENTS

NSL spent ₹830 crore, which is 146 per cent above its full-year budget of ₹570 crore. Incidentally, the review shows that investments peaked in September at ₹456 crore, against the targeted ₹142 crore, around the time the steel mill was commis-

sioned and production began. NMDC, meanwhile, spent 55 per cent of the budgeted capex within the first half, namely ₹899 crore out of ₹1,630 crore. The H1 targeted capex was ₹418 crore, and investments exceeded it by 115 per cent, or ₹481 crore, according to the review documents accessed by *businessline*.

In September, the last month reviewed by the Ministry, addi-

tional capex was ₹149 crore (₹242 crore, against a target of ₹93 crore).

## WIDENING CAPEX

Steel Authority of India Limited (SAIL) utilised 30-odd per cent, or around ₹2,080 crore, of its targeted ₹6,800 crore capex till September-end. The difference against the H1 targeted capex (₹2,186 crore) was ₹106 crore or about 5 per cent. The gap between targeted capex and actual spending widened in September to 11 per cent.

Similarly, Rashtriya Ispat Nigam Ltd (RINL) has utilised 42 per cent of its budgeted capex, or ₹290 crore, out of a budget estimate of ₹683 crore. However, it fell 8 per cent short of its targeted six-month capex of ₹316 crore. The September performance review witnessed the steel-maker fall short of the investment target (for the month) by over 50 per cent.