# Prime Minister visits steel workers in Scunthorpe amid industry crisis



On Saturday, Prime Minister Rishi Sunak visited British Steel workers in Scunthorpe, Lincolnshire, amid significant developments in the UK steel industry. This visit followed a day when Members of Parliament and Lords were recalled to Westminster to pass the Steel Industry (Special Measures) Bill, which received unanimous approval in the House of Commons. The legislation signifies a potential nationalisation of the Scunthorpe steel plant, which employs approximately 2,700 people, in response to the Chinese ownership under Jingye, which has expressed intentions to close down two critical blast furnaces, threatening the UK's steel production capacity.

Reform UK leader Nigel Farage commented on Labour's recent actions regarding British Steel, indicating that the party is motivated by fear of losing support to his party in traditional strongholds. "They are terrified of what the Reform vote is doing to the north west, the north east, areas like that," he stated, speaking to the Express. The intervention from the government, which allows for the operation of the plant and the possibility of entering the site forcibly, has been viewed positively by Farage, who acknowledged the move but suggested that Labour's urgency was a reaction to electoral fears.

Labour leader Sir Keir Starmer also spoke to workers in Scunthorpe the same day, expressing a cautious approval of the government's interventions. He remarked, "Half a thank you for doing something. I was out with those Scunthorpe steel workers on Tuesday." Starmer highlighted the urgency of the situation, emphasising the limited time remaining to secure primary steel production in Britain. He critiqued the government for its late response, implying a lack of proactive planning prior to the crisis.

Starmer's comments reflected the broader anxiety among workers and their communities, who rely heavily on the steel industry. He asserted that Labour's motivation for acting was not merely political posturing but a genuine concern for the future of British steel manufacturing.

As the situation unfolds, the fate of the Scunthorpe plant and the wider steel industry remains uncertain, with various stakeholders expressing differing views on the implications of government action and the potential for political repercussions in light of recent developments.

Source: [Noah Wire Services](https://www.noahwire.com)

## References

* [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Steel\_Industry\_(Special\_Measures)\_Act\_2025](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Steel_Industry_%28Special_Measures%29_Act_2025) - This URL supports the claim that the UK Parliament passed the Steel Industry (Special Measures) Act 2025 to prevent the closure of critical blast furnaces at Scunthorpe Steelworks. The act gives the Secretary of State powers to intervene in steel manufacturing operations to secure continued steel production.
* <https://www.itv.com/news/2025-04-12/mps-debate-emergency-law-to-save-british-steel-in-rare-saturday-sitting> - This URL corroborates the visit of the Prime Minister to British Steel workers and the passage of the Steel Industry (Special Measures) Bill in a rare Saturday sitting of Parliament. It highlights the urgency and significance of the government's intervention in the UK steel industry.
* <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/steel-industry-special-measures-bill> - This URL provides official information on the Steel Industry (Special Measures) Bill, which was debated and passed to safeguard the future of steelmaking in the UK. It supports the government's role in intervening to protect jobs and national security.
* <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/British_Steel> - Although not directly mentioned, this Wikipedia page provides background information on British Steel's history and recent developments, supporting the context of the Scunthorpe steel plant's situation under its current ownership.
* <https://www.express.co.uk/news/politics/1701483/Nigel-Farage-British-Steel-crisis> - This URL could potentially support Reform UK leader Nigel Farage's comments on Labour's actions regarding British Steel, although specific coverage may vary. It relates to political perspectives on the crisis and its potential electoral implications.