

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:6485
ANSWERED ON:05.05.2010
ENVIRONMENT CLEARANCE
Singh Chaudhary Lal

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the government has granted environmental clearance to Balco for 1200 MW Thermal Power Project in the state of Chhattisgarh;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the total land required and the status of the land;
- (d) whether Environment Clearance can be granted without changing the land use; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) FOR ENVIRONMENT AND FOREST(SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH)

(a)&(b) An environment clearance under the Environment Impact Assessment Notification, 2006 was accorded on 14.08.2007 to M/s Bharat Aluminium Company Ltd. (Balco) for its 1200 MW Coal Based Thermal Power Plant in Korba District, in State of Chhattisgarh.

(c) According to the information submitted by M/s Balco in its application for environmental clearance, the extent of land for their plant was 355 acres, stated to be barren land.

(d)&(e) Environmental appraisal, including the present use of the land in question, was undertaken before the grant of the above environmental clearance. The Ministry does not encourage use of land falling under agricultural or eco sensitive area etc. for setting up of developmental projects. Further, as per para 8(v) of the Environment Impact Assessment Notification, 2006, provides, inter alia, that clearances from other regulatory bodies or authorities are not required for prior environmental clearance.