

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2466
ANSWERED ON:24.11.2010
CLOSURE OF COPPER SMELTING PLANT
Gowda Shri D.B. Chandre;Haque Shri Sk. Saidul

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

- (a) whether Madras High Court in its recent order has directed closure of copper smelting plant of M/s Sterlite Industries in Tuticorin in Tamil Nadu;
- (b) if so , the details thereof;
- (c) whether the orders of the Court have been complied with;
- (d) if not, the reasons therefor; and
- (e) the steps taken/proposed to be taken for protection of environment in Tuticorin?

Answer

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

- (a) & (b) As informed by Tamil Nadu Pollution Control Board (TNPCB), the Hon'ble High Court of Madras vide its Orders dated 28.9.2010 had issued closure order in respect of M/s. Sterlite Industries (India) Limited, Copper Smelter Plant, Thoothukudi.
- (c) & (d) In compliance to the Hon'ble High Court Orders, the TNPCB issued directions for closure and disconnection of power supply to the unit. However, the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India stayed the High Court Order.
- (e) As per the subsequent Orders of the Supreme Court of India, dated 18.10.2010, the overall industrial activities in Tuticorin would be closely monitored by the TNPCB and CPCB for compliance with the pollution control norms.