

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:283

ANSWERED ON:10.11.2010

CLEARANCE TO POSCO

Das Gupta Shri Gurudas;Kumar Shri Kaushalendra;Ramkishun Shri ;Satpathy Shri Tathagata

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

- (a) whether the Government has given green signal to POSCO project in Orissa even though it has violated environmental norms;
- (b) if so, the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether the Government had set up a Committee to examine the alleged violations by POSCO;
- (d) if so, whether the said Committee has submitted the report; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof and the action taken by the Government thereon?

Answer

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

(a) & (b) The Central Government after following due procedure accorded following approvals/clearances for establishment of an Integrated Steel Plant and Captive Port by POSCO-India Pvt. Ltd. in Jagatsinghpur district of Orissa:

(i) The environmental clearance on 19.07.2007 to 4.0 MTPA Integrated Steel Plant with Captive Power Project of 400 MW subject to stipulation of environmental safeguards;

(ii) The CRZ clearance on 15.05.2007 for a minor captive port;

(iii) Stage-I forest clearance on 19.09.2008 for diversion of 1253.225 ha. forest land, subject to stipulated conditions;

(iv) Stage-II forest clearance on 29.12.2009 for diversion of 1253.225 ha. forest land, , subject to certain conditions which inter-alia includes that the rights of the tribal people will be settled as per the provisions of the Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act, 2006 before implementation of the project. On 08.01.2010 State Government of Orissa was further informed that the Stage-II forest clearance issued was conditional subject to settlement of rights under the Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act, 2006. The State Government was categorically directed that no forest land should be handed over to the User Agency before settlement of rights under the above mentioned Act.

(c) to (e) On receipt of complaints on violations of the Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act, 2006 and Resettlement & Rehabilitations (R&R) provisions, the Central Government on 28.07.2010 constituted a four member Committee consisting of Ms. Meena Gupta, Dr. Devendra Pandey, Dr. Urmila Pingley and Dr. V. Suresh. Terms of Reference of the said Committee as amended on 27.08.2010, are as below:

(i) Investigation and ascertainment of the Implementation of the Scheduled Tribes and other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act, 2006 in and around the said forest land;

(ii) Investigation and ascertainment of the status of the implementation of the Rehabilitations and Resettlement provisions in respect of the said project;

(iii) Review compliance with Environmental (EIA), Coastal Regulation Zone (CRZ) & other clearances/approvals granted by the Ministry of Environment & Forests and other Central, State and local authorities;

(iv) Review compliance with statutory provisions, approvals, clearances and permissions under various statutes, rules, notifications, etc.

(v) Review compliance with pari passu conditionalities imposed in item (iii) and (iv) above;

(vi) Any other matter which is in furtherance of the above objectives. The committee has submitted its report on 18.10.2010. The report has been referred to the Forest Advisory Committee, the Expert Appraisal Committee (Industry) and the Expert Appraisal Committee (CRZ and Infrastructure).