

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
TRIBAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:5167

ANSWERED ON:10.12.2010

VIOLATION OF TRIBAL RIGHTS

Das Gupta Shri Gurudas;Mitra Shri Somendra Nath

Will the Minister of TRIBAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether forest rights violation is alleged to have taken place in Orissa; and
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the corrective measures taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TRIBAL AFFAIRS (DR. TUSHAR A. CHAUDHARY)

(a) The Ministry of Environment & Forests have informed that they have, so far, received report on violation of the Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act, 2006, in respect of the following projects seeking diversion of forest land for non- forestry purposes in Orissa:

- (i) Diversion of 660.749 ha of forest land for mining of Bauxite ore in Lanjigarh Bauxite Reserve in favour of Orissa Mining Corporation in Kalahandi and Rayagade districts in Orissa for approval under Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980; and
- (ii) Diversion of 1253.225 ha of forest land for establishment of Integrated Steel Plant and Captive Port by POSCO-India Pvt. Ltd., Jagatsinghpur district of Orissa.

(b) The Ministry of Environment & Forests, in consideration of a Committee constituted by it, rejected Stage-II approval under the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 for diversion of 660.749 ha of forest land for mining of Bauxite ore in Lanjigarh Bauxite Reserve in favour of Orissa Mining Corporation in Kalahandi and Rayagada districts in Orissa. Similarly, report of a Committee constituted by the Ministry of Environment & Forests to examine inter-alia the compliance to the provisions of the Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act, 2006, by the Integrated Steel Plant and Captive Port proposed to be established by POSCO-India Pvt. Ltd. in Jagatsinghpur district of Orissa, is under examination of the Ministry. Pending final decision on the matter, the Ministry has however, informed the State Government of Orissa to stop work, if any, being undertaken by the said project of M/s POSCO India Private Limited, including handing over of the forest and non-forest land to the said project.