

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1794

ANSWERED ON:07.03.2011

ENVIRONMENTAL CLEARANCE TO POSCO PLANT

Angadi Shri Suresh Chanabasappa; Biswal Shri Hemanand ; Das Gupta Shri Gurudas; Das Shri Khagen; Khaire Shri Chandrakant Bhauro; Manjhi Shri Hari; Nahata Smt. P. Jaya Prada; Naik Shri Shripad Yesso; Owaisi Shri Asaduddin; Patil Shri A.T. Nana; Shekhar Shri Neeraj; Singh Shri Yashvir; Tarai Shri Bibhu Prasad

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

(a) whether the Government has accorded approvals/clearances including the environmental for establishment of an Integrated Steel Plant and Captive Port by POSCO-India Private Limited in Orissa;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government has resolved all the contentious issues raised by the affected people/village councils pertaining to environment and forests of the areas; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF THE STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH)

(a) & (b): Ministry of Environment & Forests had earlier granted environmental clearance under the Environment Impact Assessment Notification, 2006 on 19.7.2007 to 4.0 million tonnes per annum capacity integrated iron & steel plant and under the Environment Impact Assessment Notification, 2006 & Coastal Regulation Zone Notification, 1991 on 15.5.2007 to a captive minor port in Orissa by M/s POSCO - India Pvt. Ltd. subject to effective implementation of various conditions and environmental safeguards. The proposal was further looked at by the Expert Appraisal Committee (Industry) for the Steel Plant and Expert Appraisal Committee

(Infrastructure) for the Captive Port in the light of the recommendations of the four member Committee constituted by Ministry of Environment & Forests. Additional conditions have been stipulated in both the environmental clearances through two letters dated 31st January, 2011.

(c) & (d): The Central Government requested the State Government of Orissa to submit a categorical assurance that at least one of the three conditions to be fulfilled by a person before his claims as Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (OTFD) under the Scheduled Tribes and OTFD (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act, 2006 are recognized, are not fulfilled in the case of those claiming to be depending on or cultivating land in the POSCO project area. The said assurance is still awaited from the State Government of Orissa.