

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:162

ANSWERED ON:01.08.2011

ENVIRONMENTAL CLEARANCE TO POSCO PLANT

Gawali Patil Smt. Bhavana Pundlikrao ;Nagorao Shri Dudhgaonkar Ganeshrao

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

- (a) whether the Government has accorded permission for setting up of the POSCO Plant in Orissa;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether some local populations have been opposing the setting up of Plant in the State;
- (d) if so, whether the Government has any plan for taking the views of public in the matter; and
- (e) if so, the action taken by the Government and if not, the reasons therefor?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) FOR ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRIMATI JAYANTHI NATARAJAN)

(a) & (b) Ministry of Environment and Forests had earlier accorded the environmental clearance on 19.07.2007 to 4.0 MTPA capacity Integrated Iron and Steel plant in Orissa by M/s POSCO - India Pvt. Ltd. under the provision of the Environment Impact Assessment (EIA) Notification, 2006 subject to effective implementation of various conditions and environmental safeguards. The proposal was further appraised by the Expert Appraisal Committee (Industry), in the light of the recommendations of the four member Committee constituted by Ministry of Environment & Forests and vide letter dated 31st January, 2011, additional conditions were stipulated for implementation of the project.

(c) to (e) Environmental clearance to the POSCO plant was accorded after the following due procedure as laid in the EIA Notification, 2006. Before according the environmental clearance, consultation was done through public hearing by the Orissa State Pollution Control Board on 15.04.2007. However, there were some issues under the Forest Rights Act, 2006 regarding Palli Sabha Resolution received from the POSCO Parthirodha Sangram Samiti. Based on the comments of the State Government of Orissa on the said Palli Sabha Resolution and the provisions of the Orissa Gram Panchayat Act, 1964, the Forest Rights Act, 2006 and the Forest Rights Rules, 2007, the Ministry of Environment and Forests accorded final approval on 4.05.2011 under the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 for diversion of forest land subject to compliance of the conditions.