

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
STEEL
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:5988
ANSWERED ON:14.05.2012
ENVIRONMENTAL CLEARANCE FOR POSCO PROJECT
Bhagora Shri Tarachand

Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the National Green Tribunal has suspended the environment clearance/granted to POSCO mega steel project in Odisha in January, 2011 until the Ministry of Environment and Forests reviews it afresh;
- (b) whether the tribunal has pointed out that memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between Odisha Government and POSCO states that the project is for production of 12 million tonnes of steel per annum whereas the environment impact assessment report is for 4 MTPA Steel production in the first phase;
- (c) if so, the details, thereof; and
- (d) the reaction of the Government thereto?

Answer

MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI BENI PRASAD VERMA)

(a)to(d): The Ministry of Environment & Forests (MoEF) had granted environmental clearance on 19.7.2007 to an integrated iron and steel plant by M/s. POSCO - India Pvt. Ltd. in Odisha subject to various environmental safeguards. Based on the report submitted by a four member Committee, additional conditions were stipulated on 31st January, 2011.

In an appeal filed before the National Green Tribunal (NGT) challenging the environmental clearance accorded on 19.7.2007 as well as the order dated 31st January, 2011 imposing additional conditions, the NGT vide its Judgment dated 30th March, 2012 has suspended the order dated 31st January, 2011 of MoEF. NGT has further directed the MoEF to make a fresh review of the Project with specific reference to the observations/apprehensions raised by the Review Committee by issuing fresh Terms of Reference.

The MoU has been signed between Odisha Government and POSCO for setting up of a 12 Mtpa steel plant. NGT has directed MoEF to consider proportionately optimizing the land requirement for setting up of 4 Mtpa steel plant in the first phase.