

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1729  
ANSWERED ON:16.12.2013  
VIOLATION IN FOREST CLEARANCE NORMS  
Bhoi Shri Sanjay

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

- (a) whether the Government has taken a note that a private steel and power company has allegedly started project construction before getting the mandatory forest approval in the State of Odisha;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether Forest Advisory Committee has probed into the alleged violation by the company;
- (d) if so, whether any time frame has been fixed for completion of the probe; and
- (e) the action taken/being taken by the Government against the companies for alleged violation in this regard?

**Answer**

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

(a) to (e) Government of Odisha informed the Ministry of Environment and Forests (MoEF) that M/s. Jindal Steel and Power Limited utilised 11.21 hectares of non-forest land for execution of various activities related to establishment of an Integrated Steel Complex in Angul district of Odisha before obtaining in-principle approval of Central Government under the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 for diversion of 168.232 hectares of forest land required for establishment of the said project.

Keeping in view that execution of the project related activities on the non-forest land before obtaining in-principle approval of Central Government under the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 for diversion of forest land required for the projects amounts to violation of the para 4.4 of guidelines issued under the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980, the matter was referred to the Forest Advisory Committee for examination and appropriate recommendation.

The Forest Advisory Committee after examination of the said matter in the meeting held on 28th -29th November 2013 recommended that in lieu of utilization of the said non forest land, the State Government shall raise penal compensatory afforestation from the funds to be provided by the user agency over degraded forest land equal in extent to the 11.21 hectares of non-forest land utilised by the user agency for execution of various project related activities prior to grant of in-principle approval under the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 for diversion of the forest land required for the project.