

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

STARRED QUESTION NO:270
ANSWERED ON:10.02.2014
ENVIRONMENTAL CLEARANCE TO STEEL PLANT
Bhagora Shri Tarachand;Panda Shri Prabodh

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

- (a) whether the Government has granted environmental clearance to POSCO steel plant project in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether there has been any objection from the stakeholders including the National Green Tribunal against the setting up of POSCO steel plant projects in the country;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the steps taken/being taken by the Government to address the concerns of the stakeholders?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) FOR ENVIRONMENT & FORESTS (SHRI M. VEERAPPA MOILY)

(a) to (e): A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) to (e) OF THE LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 270 REGARDING "ENVIRONMENTAL CLEARANCE TO STEEL PLANT" ASKED BY SHRI PRABODH PANDA AND SHRI TARACHAND BHAGORA DUE FOR ANSWER ON 10.2.2014

(a) to (b) Yes, Sir. The Ministry of Environment and Forests (MoEF) has accorded environmental clearance to M/s. POSCO India Private Limited on 19.07.2007 for setting up of an Integrated Iron and Steel Plant of 4 MTPA capacity with a Captive Power Plant (4x100MW) at Kujang, near Paradip, Jagatsinghpur in Odisha, subject to various environmental safeguards. The Ministry of Environment and Forests has extended the validity of the environmental clearance on 07.01.2014.

(c) to (e) Before according the environmental clearance, consultation on the project was done through a Public Hearing conducted by the Odisha State Pollution Control Board on 15.04.2007. The Ministry of Environment & Forests received representations regarding Palli Sabha Resolution received from the POSCO Parthirodha Sangram Samiti on the transfer of forest land vis-à-vis the forest rights of the tribal and forest dwellers under the Forest Rights Act, 2006. 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 Stage-II forestry clearance on 04.05.2011 under the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 for diversion of forest land subject to compliance of various conditions. In addition, the MOEF also imposed environmental conditions in its letter dated 31.01.2011 based on a four-member committee constituted to address concerns raised by various stakeholders.

An appeal was filed in the National Green Tribunal (NGT) challenging the environmental clearance granted on 19.07.2007 along with additional conditions imposed by the Ministry on 31.01.2011. The Ministry in pursuance of the directions given by the Hon'ble National Green Tribunal on 30.3.2012 constituted an Expert Committee with relevant expertise. The recommendations of this Committee headed by Shri K.Roy Paul and the plan of action of M/s POSCO thereto were considered by the Expert Appraisal Committee (Industry) of the Ministry. The EAC(I) recommended extending the validity of the environmental clearance dated 19.07.2007, subject to environmental safeguards on land optimisation, water storage including rainwater harvesting particularly during lean period, water usage including recycling and treatment and earmarking of 5% of the total cost of the project towards 'Enterprise Social Commitment' based on local needs.

Based on the recommendations of the Expert Appraisal Committee (Industry), MoEF has revalidated the Environment Clearance accorded to M/s Posco India Private Limited on 7th January 2014 subject to various environmental safeguards.