

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
ENVIRONMENT, FORESTS AND CLIMATE CHANGE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:6264
ANSWERED ON:05.05.2015
VIOLATION OF ENVIRONMENT NORMS
Panda Shri Baijayant "Jay"

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

- (a) whether according to a report by the Centre for Science and Environment, the - iron and steel industries are failing to meet environmental norms despite securing certification for high level of environmental and safety management systems;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the action taken thereon;
- (c) whether the Government is considering to increase the environmental norms and standards for these industries; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof along with the reviews on environmental clearance being given to these industries?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) FOR ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE (SHRI PRAKASH JAVADEKAR)

(a)&(b)As per information available with Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB), Green Rating Project (GRP) undertaken by the Centre for Science and Environment (CSE) had environmental rating of major iron and steel plants of India in the year 2012.

During the study, 21 plants with production capacity more than 0.5 Million tonnes per year were considered. The rating was based on life-cycle analysis using more than 150 parameters such as process efficiency, air pollution, resource consumption, occupational health and safety, land requirement, solid waste management etc. Maximum weightage was given to iron making, air pollution, solid waste management etc. The report stated that almost all the plants were found non-compliant.

The report was examined and it was observed that a few parameters such as reduced specific water consumption, 100% utilization of blast furnace & steel slag, rebuilding coke oven batteries, waste heat recovery, waste gas utilization, recycling and reuse of solid wastes were not given weightage in GRP.

CPCB under its Environment Surveillance Squad (ESS) inspects industries including steel plants for verification of compliance to environmental norms. Based on non-compliance, directions are issued to the concerned State Pollution Control Boards under Section 18 (1) (b) of the Water (Prevention and Control) of Pollution Act, 1974 and/or the Air (Prevention and Control) of Pollution, 1981 or to the concerned industry under Section 5 of the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986. During last three years (2012-2014) and current year, a total of 9 units were issued directions under Section 5 of Environment (Protection) Act, 1986. The details are given at Annexure.

(c)&(d) The environmental norms for iron and steel sector are being revised by CPCB. The environmental clearance to these industries would be given on case to case basis.