

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA**  
**MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS**

**RAJYA SABHA**

**QUESTION NO 26.07.2010**

**ANSWERED ON**

**ENVIRONMENTAL CLEARANCE TO POSCO STEEL PROJECT**

15

Shri D. Raja

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

(a) whether it is fact that the Orissa Government had furnished wrong information to the Ministry regarding the forest land acquired for the Posco Steel Project where hundreds of people had been living for generations together, on the basis of which environment clearance was given; and

(b) if so, whether Government would consider cancellation of environment clearance given to the said project in view of continuous protests from the local people?

**ANSWER**

MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) FOR ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS

(SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH)

(a) & (b) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) & (b) OF THE RAJYA SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 15 FOR REPLY ON 26.07.2010 REGARDING "ENVIRONMENTAL CLEARANCE TO POSCO STEEL PROJECT".

(a) & (b) The Environmental Clearance for setting up of an Integrated Iron & Steel Plant (4.0 MTPA) along with a Captive Power Plant (4 x 100 MW) at Kujang, near Paradip, Jagatsinghpur, Orissa by M/s POSCO India-Orissa Pvt.Ltd. was accorded on 19th July, 2007 subject to stipulation of environmental safeguards. One of the clearance conditions stipulated was obtaining of the forest clearance for diversion of forest land under the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 prior to the commencement of the construction work at site.

The Government of Orissa submitted a proposal in June, 2007 to obtain prior approval of the Central Government under section-2 of the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 for diversion of 1253.225 ha of forest land for establishment of the above mentioned project. After following the due procedure, in-principal / stage -1 approval for diversion of the said forest land was accorded in September, 2008.

On receipt of compliance report to the conditions stipulated in the in- principle approval from the State Government of Orissa, final clearance for diversion of forest land was accorded in December, 2009. In January, 2010, the Central Government informed the Government of Orissa that the said forest clearance issued is subject to the settlement of rights under the Scheduled Tribes and other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act, 2006 and no forest land shall be handed over to the User Agency before settlement of rights under the above mentioned Act.