

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

**LOK SABHA**  
**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2530**  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 04.08.2025

**Environmental Violations by Coal Mining, Sponge-iron and Steel Units in Giridih**

2530. SHRI CHANDRA PRAKASH CHOUDHARY:

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

- (a) whether the Government/Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) is aware of environmental violations by coal mining, sponge-iron and steel units in Giridih, such as persistent industrial air and water pollution emissions of smoke, soot, dust and contamination of groundwater and rivers caused by dozens of sponge-iron, ferro-alloy and rolling mills around Giridih;
- (b) if so, the concrete actions taken by the Government/CPCB to address this issue;
- (c) whether any environmental or health impact assessments have been conducted regarding air quality degradation, water contamination in local rivers and groundwater, respiratory illnesses, soil degradation or crop damage in affected communities;
- (d) if so, the principal findings, including levels of pollution detected, health statistics and ecological impacts; and
- (e) the details of the additional measures are being implemented to strengthen the enforcement of environmental norms in Giridih's industrial and mining units, safeguard public health and provide relief or rehabilitation to affected residents?

**ANSWER**

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE  
(SHRI KIRTI VARDHAN SINGH)

**(a) to (e)**

Sponge iron, induction furnace and rolling mill are the major industries in the villages of Gadi Srirampur, Mohanpur, Udnabad, Phulchi, in Giridih District. The Jharkhand State Pollution Control Board (JSPCB) regularly inspects the industrial units of the state. In the year 2025, JSPCB inspected 07 Sponge Iron units to assess their pollution control systems. Letters were issued to 07 industrial units for violations of improper solid waste management/ submission of CAAQMS data/ display of environmental data. The sponge iron industries located in Giridih have installed Electrostatic Precipitator (ESP) device on the rotary kiln and bag filters on other dust emitting sources. Water sprinkling is regularly done by fixed water sprinkler and water tanker. These industrial units are equipped with Online Continuous Emission Monitoring System (OCEMS) which is connected to the server of JSPCB and Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB). PM10 analyzers are also installed by the industries to monitor ambient air quality, and these are connected to JSPCB and CPCB servers. Regular directions are issued to non-complying units. The Giridih District Environmental Committee, in its meetings, regularly

directs various industrial units to abate pollution. Ambient Air Quality Monitoring reports (for parameters RSPM, SO<sub>2</sub> and NO<sub>x</sub>) carried out near Tiranga Chowk, Giridih from January to March 2025, shows that the pollutant concentrations is within the prescribed standards.

The Government has made it mandatory to obtain Environmental Clearance (EC) before commencement of Coal Mining, Sponge Iron Plant and Steel Plant under the Environment Impact Assessment Notification, 2006 from Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC)/ State Environment Impact Assessment Authority (SEIAA). In this regard a detailed Environment Impact Assessment (EIA) is carried out and comprehensive Environment Management Plan (EMP) with all safeguards is to be submitted. The EIA/EMP is deliberated in detail by the Environmental Appraisal Committee (EAC) of MoEF&CC / State Environmental Appraisal Committee (SEAC) of State Government, before issuance of EC.

In addition, all the above mentioned units have to obtain Consent to Establish (CTE) and Consent to Operate (CTO) from State Pollution Control Boards (SPCB). These Environmental Permits stipulate all necessary conditions including mitigation measures to protect the environment.

The stipulated conditions of EC/CTO/CTE and the mitigation measures proposed in EMP are necessarily complied to maintain the appropriate environmental standards in and around unit premises. Comprehensive environmental monitoring mechanism, for assessing the efficacy of mitigation measures, is undertaken as prescribed in the Environment (Protection) Act & Rules and EC conditions. The compliance report is submitted to regulatory agencies on routine basis by the project proponent.

The MoEFCC notifies “Standards for Emission or Discharge of Environmental Pollutants from various Industries” under Schedule-I of the Environment Protection Rules, 1986.

- The Environmental Standards for coal mines has been notified by MoEFCC vide G.S.R. 742(E), dated 25.9.2000,
- Environmental Standards for Sponge Iron Plant has been notified vide G.S.R. 414(E) on 30.05.2008
- Environmental Standards for Iron & Steel Plant has been notified vide G.S.R. 277(E) on 31.03.2012.

The Environmental Standards are enforced by SPCB through consent mechanism and monitoring on time to time basis. Further, Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) has directed all 17 categories of high pollution potential industries (including Sponge Iron Plants and Steel Plant) and common waste treatment facilities to install Online Continuous Effluent/ Emission Monitoring Systems (OCEMS) for strengthening monitoring mechanism and effective compliance through self-regulatory mechanism and constant vigil on pollution levels. Real-time values of environmental pollutants of trade effluent and emissions generated through OCEMS are transmitted online to concerned SPCB/PCC and CPCB on 24x7 basis. The data is processed at CPCB and if the value of pollutant parameter exceeds prescribed environmental norms, an automatic SMS alert is generated and sent to industrial unit, SPCB and CPCB, so that corrective measures can be taken by the industry immediately and appropriate action can be taken by concerned SPCB/PCC/CPCB.

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