

- (b) Yes, Sir. With some conditions.
- (c) Yes, Sir.
- (d) The State Government of Madhya Pradesh needs the permission of Hon'ble Supreme Court before denotifying the Sanctuary.

Cancellation of environmental clearance to POSCO

3595. SHRI D. RAJA:

SHRI SYED AZEEZ PASHA:

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

- (a) whether it is a fact that the Central Government appointed Specialised Committee has opined against setting up of steel factory by POSCO in Jagatsinghpur of Orissa;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether, in view of the report, Government has taken any decision to cancel all the permission accorded, so far, to POSCO;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) and (b) The Committee constituted by the Ministry to investigate into the proposal of POSCO-India Limited for establishment of an Integrated Steel Plant and Captive Port in District Jagatsinghpur in Orissa submitted its two reports, one by Ms Meena Gupta and another by Dr. Urmila Pingle, Dr. Devendra Pandey & Dr. V. Suresh on 18th October, 2010. It was decided in the first instance to place the report of the Committee before the Expert Appraisal Committees for appraisal of projects in the sector of Industry and CRZ & Infrastructure for their recommendation. The above committees have not finalized their recommendation.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) and (e) In view of the reply to part (c) above, does not arise.

Illegal occupation and encroachment of forest land

†3596. SHRI KAPTAN SINGH SOLANKI: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(a) whether it is a fact that cases of illegal occupation and encroachment across the forests of the country, are on the rise;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government has made any efforts to check such illegal occupations and encroachments; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) and (b) No such reports have been received, from the State/Union Territory Governments revealing that cases of illegal occupations and encroachments across the forests of the country are on the rise.

(c) and (d) The protection of forest areas is primarily the responsibility of the concerned State/UT Governments under the relevant provisions of various Central/State Acts, rules, Regulations, etc. However, this Ministry provides financial assistance to the State Forest Departments under a Centrally Sponsored Scheme 'Intensification of Forest Management' to strengthen their forest protection machinery by way of infrastructure development, use of modern technology, improved mobility by way of deployment of new field vehicles, improved communication and providing arms ammunition to the frontline forestry force.

Environmental clearance to GIDC, SEZ and SIR

3597. SHRI PRAVEEN RASHTRAPAL: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ministry would look into the complaints from the farmers of Gujarat where agriculture land is taken over by the State Government in the name of Gujarat Industrial Development Corporation (GIDC), SEZ and SIR; and

(b) whether it is a fact that the Friends of Environment have written to Hon'ble Minister on 13 September, 2010 about violation of established norms in the District of Kutch in particular?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) and (b) The proposals received for Environmental Clearance, including Gujarat Industrial Development Corporation (GIDC) and Special Economic Zone (SEZ), are