

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. T. 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 sectors of Industry and CRZ & Infra-structure for their recommendation.

(c) and (d) The recommendation of the Expert Appraisal Committees on Industry and CRZ & Infra-structure are awaited.

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

Amendments in Wildlife Protection Act

2033. SHRI A. ELAVARASAN: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government proposed to bring any amendments in the Wildlife Protection Act, 1972 to protect wildlife, missing animals and species; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) and (b) The Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972 has been amended from time to time. Present proposal of amending the Act, *inter-alia* incorporates constitution of the National Elephant Conservation Authority, adoption of provisions of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES), and enhancing the penalties for violations of the provision of the Act.

Clearance to proposals for dams and inter-linking of rivers

2034. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) the floods caused by overflowing rivers during this monsoon could have been tamed to a large extent if Government had cleared proposals for dams and inter-linking of rivers expeditiously; and