

(c) The Working Group had to submit its report to the Government within six weeks of its constitution.

(d) and (e) Working Group held its meeting on 8.2.2011. Based on the recommendations of the Working Group, all the suggestions made by C&AG were incorporated in the draft audit rules. Model audit rules have been referred to the Ministry of Law for vetting.

#### **Clearance to posco project in Orissa**

\*84. SHRIMATI BRINDA KARAT: Will the Minister of Environment and Forests be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of conditions for clearance given for the POSCO project in Orissa;
- (b) the circumstances under which the Ministry gave sanction to the project; and
- (c) whether the issues raised by the majority of recommendations of the Expert Committee have been accepted?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) to (c) Ministry of Environment & Forests had earlier granted environmental clearance on 19.7.2007 to 4.0 million tonnes per annum capacity integrated iron and steel plant in Orissa by M/s POSCO - India Pvt. Ltd. subject to effective implementation of various conditions and environmental safeguards. The proposal was further looked at by the Expert Appraisal Committee (Industry), in the light of the recommendations of the four member Committee constituted by Ministry of Environment & Forests and *vide* letter dated 31st January, 2011, 18 additional conditions have been stipulated for implementation in the project. These conditions *inter-alia* include provision for air pollution control devices, online continuous stack monitoring to be carried out, installation of desalination plant to meet the drinking water requirement for the neighborhood, provision of rainwater harvesting, use of energy efficient technologies, development of greenbelt with a minimum width of 15m, preparation of detailed occupational health surveillance programme and its implementation, preparation of risk and disaster management plan to cater to any eventuality arising from natural disasters as well as from storage/leakage of oil and gas and earmarking of 2% of the net profit as CSR budget towards corporate social responsibility.