

Environmental clearance to POSCO Project

†*265. SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the National Green Tribunal (NGT) has cancelled the environmental clearance earlier accorded to Odisha based POSCO Steel Project ;

(b) if so, the details thereof, and

(c) the reasons advanced for the cancellation of the clearance given earlier ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRIMATI JAYANTHI NATARAJAN): (a) to (c) Ministry of Environment & Forests (MoEF) had granted environmental clearance on 19.7.2007 to an integrated iron and steel plant by M/s POSCO – India Pvt. Ltd. in Orissa subject to various environmental safeguards. based on the reports submitted by a four member Committee, additional conditions were stipulated on 31st January, 2011.

In an appeal filed before the National Green Tribunal (NGT) challenging the environmental clearance accorded on 19.7.2007 as well as the order dated 31st January, 2011 imposing additional conditions, the NGT vide its judgment dated 30th March, 2012 has suspended the order dated 31st January, 2011 of MoEF. NGT has further directed that MoEF shall make a fresh review of the Project with specific reference to the observation / apprehensions raised by the Review Committee by issuing fresh TORs.

Purchase of LNG at Spot Prices

*266. SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the spot prices of Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) are neither linked to crude oil prices any longer nor determined by the Henry Hub Pricing mechanism ;

(b) whether the purchase of spot LNG by developed economies has declined in the light of large shale gas discoveries in North America and the European Union ; and

(c) if so, whether Indian Oil PSUs will be encouraged to purchase LNG at spot prices?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY): (a) the spot prices of Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) are determined by various factors including market forces of demand and supply.

(b) as per waterborne LNG reports, import of LNG has declined in USA between 2005 and 2010. As per the same report, the LNG imports of most European countries (UK,

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Spain, France, Belgium, Turkey) increased over the same period. the imports of LNG of other non-European major consumers of LNG *i.e.* South Korea and Japan also increased over the same period. The mix of spot versus term for any country is determined, *inter alia* by demand supply conditions, contractual obligations and price considerations.

(c) the spot prices have not shown any consistent decline and therefore no need is felt to issue any instructions in this regard. The Oil PSUs procure LNG at the best available terms whether be it long term gas, shorts term gas or spot gas and depending on the demand and requirement of offtakers and bulk consumers.

Laws for Curbing Fraud by Financial Companies

†*267. DR. C.P THAKUR: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the details of laws enacted by Government in order to curb those companies which defalcate the money of common people in the name of profitable investment ;

(b) whether any action has been taken by Government to punish the persons responsible for the scams in companies like Speakasia, Laqena Well World Marketing etc.; and

(c) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) The Companies Act, 1956 has provisions on Year Regulation of Public deposits (section 58A), Inspection (section 209 A), Investigation (section 235/237), scrutiny of documents (section 234), Search and seizure (section 240A), and on penalties and prosecutions, etc. to curb the financial frauds committed by the companies registered under the Act. Further, the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) enacted securities and Exchange Board of India (Collective Investment Schemes) Regulations, 1999 to regulate Collective Investment Schemes (CIS) in the interest of the investors and the securities market. In terms of the provisions contained in the Reserve Bank of India Act, 1934, RBI is empowered to act against the Non-Banking Finance Companies (NBFCs) which accept public deposits and do not repay, and also against unincorporated bodies accepting public deposits.

(b) and (c) Based on the complaints regarding M/s Speakasia, an investigation was ordered to be carried out by the Ministry of Corporate Affairs through the Serious Fraud Investigation Office (SFIO), and by the Directorate of Enforcement.

Further, as per the information available, the Government has not received any complaint against Laquena Well World Marketing.

As and when any complaint about un-authorised activities of NBFCs/un-incorporated- bodies is received by RBI, prompt appropriate action is initiated and if necessary,

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