

**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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† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.