

the directions given by the Hon'ble National Green Tribunal on 30.3.2012, constituted an Expert Committee with relevant expertise. The recommendations of this Committee headed by Shri K. Roy Paul and the plan of action of M/s. POSCO thereto were considered by the Expert Appraisal Committee (Industry) [EAC(I)] of the Ministry. The EAC(I) recommended extending the validity of the environmental clearance dated 19.07.2007, subject to environmental safeguards such as land optimisation, water storage including rainwater harvesting particularly during lean period, water usage including recycling and treatment and earmarking of 5% of the total cost of the project towards 'Enterprise Social Commitment' based on local needs. Based on the recommendations of the EAC(I), MoEF has revalidated the Environment Clearance accorded to M/s Posco India Private Limited on 7th January 2014 subject to various environmental safeguards.

In case titled "Prafulla Samantra *versus* Union of India & Ors." (Original Application No. 123 of 2013) before NGT, the applicant had prayed that prohibitory orders be issued against POSCO to stop work, including tree felling in the forestland until the provisions of the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 are complied with and appropriate Order in that regard is issued by the State Government. The NGT, *vide* its order dated 24.01.2014, has disposed of this application. The Order *inter-alia* states that the project proponent is at liberty to approach the State Government for appropriate orders in accordance with law and that till such order is passed by the Competent Authority, the project proponent would not carry on cutting/felling in the forest area.

Forcible conversion of Hindus in Pakistan and Bangladesh

*337. SHRI SANJAY RAUT: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn towards the recent reports of forcible conversion of Hindus and increase in assault cases in Pakistan and Bangladesh; and

(b) if so, Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER FOR EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI SALMAN KHURSHID): (a) and (b) Government has from time to time come across reports of problems being faced by members of minority communities in foreign countries including, in Pakistan and Bangladesh, of Hindu minorities.

It is the primary responsibility of the respective foreign Governments to discharge their obligations towards all their citizens including those that belong to

their minority communities. Based on reports of persecution of minority groups in Pakistan, Government has taken up the matter with the Government of Pakistan. The Government of Pakistan has stated that it was fully cognizant of the situation and looked after the welfare of all its citizens, particularly the minority community. There have also been reports of problems being faced by members of minority communities including Hindus, in Bangladesh from time to time. The Government of Bangladesh has been reiterating its commitment to safeguarding the minority rights within the legal framework of Bangladesh's constitution.

Various parameters of country's growth

*338.DR. GYAN PRAKASH PILANIA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the latest statistics pertaining to growth of India/States, on various parameters, specifically annual rate of growth, annual rate of industrial growth, annual rate of agricultural growth, human development index, hunger index, IMR, MMR, life expectancy at birth, anaemia in women/children, malnutrition in women/children, literacy rate of men/women, BPL scenario, per capita income/credit/deposit;

(b) in what manner India compares with other countries, on the above data; and

(c) the millennium development goals, pertaining to the above indicators?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI RAJEEV SHUKLA): (a) As per the latest data, the State-wise and All India details in respect of various available parameters *i.e.* annual rate of growth, annual rate of industrial growth, annual rate of agricultural growth, human development index, Infant Mortality Rate (IMR), Maternal Mortality Ratio (MMR), life expectancy at birth, anemia in women/children, malnutrition in women/children, literacy rate men/women, BPL scenario, per capita income, are given in the Statement-I (*See below*).

(b) A comparative analysis of India with some of the neighbouring/advanced countries on the indicators such as annual rate of growth, human development index, hunger index, IMR, MMR, life expectancy at birth, underweight children below five years, literacy rate, poverty headcount ratio, is given in the Statement-II (*See below*).

(c) The details of targets and achievements of Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) relating to indicators like poverty headcount ratio, underweight children, IMR, MMR, literacy rate and female-male literacy rate is given in Statement-III.