LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.2236 FOR ANSWER ON 02/12/2019

POLLUTION BY STEEL FACTORIES

2236. SHRI SANJAY SETH:

Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that public and private sector steel factories are polluting the environment specially in Jharkhand and if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether inspection of the steel plants is being carried out by the Government;

(c) if so, the number and details of inspections carried out during the last three years along with the pollutants found during the inspections and the corrective action taken thereon;

(d) the funds allocated/sanctioned by the Government to the steel plants to install pollution control equipment during the last three years; and

(e) the details of steel plants where pollution control equipment have been installed/are yet to be installed, along with the time by which such equipment are likely to be installed in all the Steel plants, State/UT-wise including Jharkhand?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STEEL

(SHRI DHARMENDRA PRADHAN)

(a)to(e): Ministry of Environment & Forest and Climate Change has notified environment protection norms under the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986. These norms determine whether units are polluting the environment or not. The Steel Plants are to comply with these norms.

The Steel Plants are required to obtain Environmental Clearance from the Ministry of Environment & Forest and Climate Change, the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) and the State Pollution Control Boards (SPCBs)/ Pollution Control Committees (PCCs) concerned, as per procedure prescribed.

To ensure regular operation of Pollution Control Systems, CPCB and SPCBs conduct inspection and in case of violations of norms, Show Cause Notices are issued. In severe cases immediate closure orders are issued to stop manufacturing activities till the industry ensures up gradation of pollution control devices to meet the norms.

The steel industry being a deregulated sector, investment decisions are taken by the respective steel companies. There is no funding from Ministry of Steel in the steel companies for installation of the pollution control devices.
