

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.4767
FOR ANSWER ON 22/12/2014

WATER POLLUTION BY NMDC PROJECT

4767. SHRI DINESH KASHYAP:

Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has any information regarding the water of the Sankani and Dankani rivers getting polluted due to iron dust mixed red water released by the Bailadila iron ore project of NMDC located in Dantewada district of Chhattisgarh;
- (b) if so, the details thereof including the crops affected and the number of livestock lost due to the said water during each of the last three years and the current year;
- (c) the details of compensation paid by the said project for such losses during the said period;
- (d) whether the NMDC has formulated any action plan for checking the said water pollution; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI VISHNU DEO SAI)

(a)&(b): Yes, Madam. NMDC is operating iron ore mines at top of Bailadila range of hills in South Dantewada District of Chhattisgarh. This region is prone to receive heavy rainfall during monsoon season. Bailadila region is also characterized with Lateritic Soil which is red in colour and surface runoff water from the region carries red soil with it and joins streams thereby making it red in colour. Discharge of rainwater from NMDC mines is not directly joining the streams as NMDC has constructed large tailing dams for impoundment of waste water discharge from its plant operations. Marginal Crop is affected due to precipitation of red water on land. Number of livestock affected in above connection are 32.

(c) NMDC is paying compensation to farmers as per the recommendations of State Government of Chhattisgarh. Total Crop Compensation paid is Rs.143.75 Lakh and Cattle Compensation paid is Rs.1.02 Lakh.

(d)&(e): Yes, Madam. NMDC has engaged a third party consultant viz., Indian School of Mines, Dhanbad for regularly monitoring the water quality of nearby Water Bodies and assess surface water quality in the area. NMDC has already constructed 21 check dams and 30 check Bunds across drainage systems for prevention of turbid flow of water. Inactive waste dumps are also being covered with GEO-COIR Matting for stabilization of Dumps and plantation with local species. In addition to all these, NMDC Ltd. has installed hand pumps in peripheral villages for clean drinking water to villagers.
