

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF STEEL

**RAJYA SABHA**  
**STARRED QUESTION NO.\*188**  
FOR ANSWER ON 06/12/2012

**POLLUTION PROBLEM IN STEEL AUTHORITY OF INDIA LTD.  
(SAIL) PLANTS**

\*188. SHRI A.V. SWAMY:

Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

- (a) the steps taken by Government for improvement, in the light of the Centre for Science and Environment's green rating findings of steel sector;
- (b) whether Government could come out with an independent White Paper on the status of pollution problem in the five major integrated plants of SAIL with time-line to shut down age-old production equipments, especially at Rourkela;
- (c) the steps taken to address the poor health and safety records of steel sector, especially of contract workers, and on concerns of the affected local community on pollution and rehabilitation;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) if not, the reasons therefor?

**ANSWER**

THE MINISTER OF STEEL

(SHRI BENI PRASAD VERMA)

(a)to(e): A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

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**STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (A) TO (E) OF THE RAJYA SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO.\*188 FOR ANSWER ON 06/12/2012 TABLED BY SHRI A.V. SWAMY, MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT REGARDING POLLUTION PROBLEM IN STEEL AUTHORITY OF INDIA LTD. (SAIL) PLANTS**

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(a) Centre for Science & Environment, a Delhi based NGO has recently come with a Green Rating Project (GRP) report on the environmental performance of 21 Indian iron & steel plants. Ministry of Steel has looked into this Report in consultation with the steel plants. The report has been taken with a positive spirit by the steel sector for improvement in their environmental performance.

(b) Steel Authority of India Limited (SAIL) has a well structured and robust environment management system in place at all its plants. A multi-pronged strategy takes care of the short and long term schemes for pollution control. These include compliance to statutory norms, benchmarking with respect to national and international best practices, phasing out of obsolete technologies and ushering in new, cleaner and energy efficient technologies. SAIL is spending more than Rs.5000 crore exclusively on environmental protection measures in its ongoing modernization/ expansion plan. The modernization/ expansion plan of SAIL including that at Rourkela Steel Plant addresses the vital issues of elimination of technological obsolescence by phasing out technologies and equipment resulting in adoption of clean technologies.

(c)&(d): Indian Steel Plants are committed to provide a safe and healthy work environment for the employees including contract workers. A number of measures like compliance to all statutory rules and regulations, development and adherence to safe operating and maintenance practices, training programmes and workshops for all level of employees including contract workers etc. are in vogue. Further, occupational health is one of the thrust areas in the steel companies. All the integrated plants have well established Occupational Health and Safety (OHS) centres primarily entrusted with preventive, promotive and curative functions. Periodic health checkups are conducted with emphasis of early detection and intervention for work related health problems. The steel plants have also taken a number of steps to comply with the laid down standards and norms at and around the steel plants addressing thereby the concerns of local communities.

(e) Does not arise in view of (c) and (d) above.

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