

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.217
FOR ANSWER ON 18/11/2019**

**INFORMATION REGARDING CONTRACTORS OF STEEL
INDUSTRY**

217. SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SINGH:

Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the public has the right to know the details of contracts (such as L1 bid, names of technically eligible participants and the details of work for which contract has been awarded to Central Public Sector Enterprises (CPSEs) in the Ministry under the RTI Act, 2005;
- (b) if so, whether the Government proposes to take against the CPSEs under its jurisdiction if they deny information to any citizen or an elected representative and if so, the details thereof;
- (c) if not, the reasons for such denial of information;
- (d) whether the CPSEs under the Ministry can deny information under the RTI Act regarding the contracts awarded by them and if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the stand of the Government on the case Gita Dewan Verma vs. Government of NCT of Delhi (CIC, 2009)?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STEEL

(SHRI DHARMENDRA PRADHAN)

(a) Under the Right to Information (RTI) Act, 2005, citizens have the right to know the details of the contract such as L1 Bid, name of technically eligible participants and details of work for which the contract has been awarded. However, Section 8 of the RTI Act, 2005 provides for exemptions.

(b)&(c): The RTI Act provides for appeal to the Appellate Authority and then to the Central Information Commission (CIC) if the information is not provided. On the recommendation of the CIC, CPSEs can take disciplinary action against the Central Public Information Officers (CPIO).

(d) The CPIOs cannot deny information sought by the applicant unless it is exempted under Section 8 of the RTI Act, 2005.

(e) The decision in the case of Gita Dewan Verma Vs. Government of NCT of Delhi (CIC 2009) is applicable to the extent where similar circumstances are involved and hence cannot be generalized.
