

Coastal Zone Regulation (CRZ) clearance for the provision of Jetty Extension Phase-II and Wet Basin and Refit Jetty at naval ship repair yard has been received in the Ministry on 18.12.2012 for consideration of environment clearance.

(c) No defence related project proposal in Andaman and Nicobar islands has been rejected for environment clearance in last two years.

(d) This Ministry has constituted a separate Expert Appraisal Committee to examine defence related strategic projects attracting Coastal Regulation Zone Notification, 2011 and Environmental Impact Assessment Notification, 2006.

**Impact of brick-soil excavation on soil fertility**

173. DR. K.V.O. RAMACHANDRA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that brick-soil excavation causes loss of fertile top soil and affects the soil integrity;

(b) if so, the estimated amount of soil being used for such purposes; and

(c) the steps being taken to prevent this?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRIMATI JAYANTHI NATARAJAN): (a) to (c) As per information made available by the Central Pollution Control Board, Brick-soil excavation causes loss of fertility of top soil. The Ministry of Urban Development has initiated action through Central Public Works Department to promote alternative materials as a suitable substitute for the traditional clay bricks. Further, the Ministry of Environment and Forests has issued a notification on 14th September, 1999 to protect the environment, conserve top soil and prevent the dumping and disposal of fly ash discharge from coal or lignite based thermal power plants on land. As per this notification, all agency, person or organisation within a radius of hundred kms. of a thermal power plant shall use only fly ash based products for construction, such as: cement or concrete, fly ash bricks or bricks or tiles or clay fly ash bricks, blocks or tiles or cement fly ash bricks or bricks similar procedure or a combination or aggregate of them, in every construction project.