

Accordingly, State specific documents for the State of Andhra Pradesh and Rajasthan have been prepared and action for preparation of State specific documents in respect of other States/UTs planned in time bound manner.

(b) and (c) The use of renewable energy and its promotion as per the existing policies and procedures of the Central and State Governments is also covered in the State/UT specific action plans.

(d) and (e) All the States/UTs are proposed to be covered for preparation of State/UT specific Action Plan documents.

Disposal of fly ash by NTPC, Kahalgaon

2438. SHRIMATI KAHKASHAN PERWEEN: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that fly-ash emitted from the NTPC plant at Kahalgaon in Bhagalpur is being loaded and unloaded indiscriminately in the residential areas and the railway premises of the city is also being used for this work for a long time;

(b) whether such fly-ash are highly hazardous for human health and life;

(c) if so, whether Government is planning to take any stringent step to stop this loading-unloading of fly-ash in the open residential area immediately; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL): (a) NTPC issues fly ash in closed tankers or jumbo bags to the agencies within the plant boundary of Kahalgaon plant in Bhagalpur. Further, the ash is issued to only those agencies who have "No Objection Certificate" (NOC) from Bihar State Pollution Control Board. Subsequently, the agencies are responsible for further bagging and transportation of ash through road/railways.

(b) Fly ash is categorized as high volume low effect waste under Hazardous Material (Management, Handling and Transboundary Movement) Rules, 2008 and is excluded from the category of Hazardous Waste, *vide* Notification dated September 24, 2008, issued by Ministry of Environment and Forests, Government of India.

(c) and (d) Even though fly ash is excluded from the category of Hazardous Wastes and agencies are responsible for ash transportation, however, as a responsible corporate entity, NTPC has taken following steps to arrest fugitive emission:

(i) Installation of wind breaking wall at Kahalgaon Railway Station.

- (ii) Daily water sprinkling at Railway Station and on NH-80 throughout the route.
- (iii) Installation of ash bagging machine just below silos.

SC/ST Employees' Welfare Association in PSUs

2439. SHRI AMBETH RAJAN: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

- (a) whether SC/ST Employees' Welfare Organisation/Association have been established by the PSUs under the administrative control of the Ministry;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether bye-Laws/rules governing the functioning of SC/ST Employees' Association, if any existing are duly approved and updated regularly; and
- (d) whether any mechanism exist to oversee their functioning; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL): (a) No, Sir.

- (b) to (e) In view of (a) above, the question does not arise.

SAARC Framework Convention on Energy Cooperation

2440. SHRIMATI VANDANA CHAVAN: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

- (a) whether India has given approval for SAARC Framework Convention on Energy Cooperation;
- (b) whether the agreement includes creating an integrated operation of regional grid across the region;
- (c) whether this would lead to increased electricity export from India when large population in the country is still without electricity; and
- (d) whether the scope of the agreement also includes increased focus on renewable energy?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL): (a) India has signed "SAARC Framework Agreement for Energy Cooperation (Electricity)" on 27.11.2014 during 18th SAARC summit held in Nepal on 26-27 November, 2014.

- (b) The Agreement would facilitate integrated operation of regional grid across the region.