

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL):

(a) and (b) Widening of the existing NH-2 (GT-Road) has been taken up by six laning it from Barwada to Panagarh *via* Nirsa of Dhanbad district. This road passes through deposits of coal however there is no existence of fire in areas contiguous to the National Highway at Nirsa area of Eastern Coalfield Limited.

(c) Directorate General of Mines Safety (DGMS) was not against the proposed National Highway passing through rich coal bearing areas in and around Nirsa. However, it has advised NHAI to study the long term stability issues.

Reduction of distance for supply of coal

1507. Dr. R. LAKSHMANAN: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has decided to reduce the distance for supplying coals from pitheads to thermal power stations from existing 750 km. to 500 km.;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL): (a) to (c) *Vide* Environment (Protection) Amendment Rules, 2014, Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change had notified through Gazette Notification dated 02.01.2014 that coal based thermal power plants including captive power plants of capacity 100 MW and above which are not using any of (i) CFBC (Circulating Fluidized Bed Combustion), (ii) AFBC (Atmospheric Fluidized Bed Combustion), (iii) PFBC (Pressurized Fluidized Bed Combustion) or (iv) IGCC (Integrated Gasification Combined Cycle) technologies for generating power, and located in (a) critically polluted area, (b) ecologically sensitive area, (c) urban area, and (d) located beyond 1000 kms. from pithead coal source, shall be supplied with and shall use coal with ash content not exceeding 34 per cent on quarterly average basis.

The notification also modified the distance of Thermal Power Plants (TPPs) from coal source specified in (d) as 750 kms. *w.e.f.* 01.01.2015 and as 500 kms. *w.e.f.* 05.06.2016, for supply and use of coal with ash content not exceeding 34 per cent on quarterly average basis.

Construction of toilets under SBM-G

†1508. SHRI RAM VICHAR NETAM: Will the Minister of DRINKING WATER AND SANITATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has received any proposals/requests from the State

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.