

(b) Environmental Pollution (Prevention and Control) Authority (EPCA) in its Report 72 in April, 2017 recommended that the distribution, sale and use of furnace oil and petcoke should be strictly banned in National Capital Region (NCR).

(c) to (e) The Ministry is in the process of consultation with State Governments and other stakeholders regarding nationwide restrictions on the use of petcoke by industries.

Deterioration of environment in Khalari, Jharkhand

†176. SHRI SAMIR ORAON: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the local environment has become severely polluted in Khalari area of Jharkhand due to coal overloading and transporting of uncovered coal, causing flying dust under Reverse Charge Mechanism (RCM) siding;

(b) whether it is a fact that dust pollution has caused severe harm to public health and fertility of agricultural land and hundreds of people have died of fatal diseases caused due to this pollution; and

(c) whether the concerned Ministries have conducted a comprehensive study on the detrimental effect of pollution, if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE (SHRI BABUL SUPRIYO): (a) To control the dust generated in the process of loading at the railway sidings, the following steps have been taken:—

- (i) 114 no. of stationary sprinklers have been installed. Also, 16 no. of 28 kl including mist type sprinklers are operative in the mines of Khalari Region. Overloading for transportation of coal is prohibited in all mines.
- (ii) Further, wind breaking arrangements and green belt are also being implemented at railway sidings.
- (iii) Regular Environment Monitoring is done by National Accreditation Board for Testing and Calibration Laboratories (NABL) accredited lab for air on fortnightly basis and the parameters are generally within prescribed standard limits.
- (iv) At some monitoring points, the concentration of particulate matter is higher than prescribed limit. Coal mines have been directed to take all

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

necessary preventive measures for contaminant of dust particles while transportation of coal through covered vehicles, regular water sprinkling in mining area and on haul roads.

(b) and (c) Though air pollution is one of the triggering factors for respiratory ailments and associated diseases, there are no conclusive data available in the country to establish direct correlation of death/disease exclusively due to air pollution.

Massive plantation has been done in mining area to contain migration and generation of dust. Central Coalfields Limited (CCL) has a network of colliery hospital/dispensary, regional hospitals and Central Hospitals for providing medical care. Periodic medical examination (PME) for occupational diseases is done for every worker deployed in mines. No case of fatality has been reported due to occupational diseases arising out of dust pollution. Regular Health Check-Up camps are also organised for the people in and around the neighboring villages of the projects of CCL.

**Alleged irregularity in public hearing for
environmental clearance**

†177. SHRI SAMIR ORAON: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the public hearing for environment clearance of a private company proposed Amtipani Bauxite mine in Bishanpur block of Gumla district in Jharkhand State had taken place 25 kms. away from the area in Banari in the absence of affected people;

(b) whether the affected populace could not know about it as the said programme was not adequately publicised;

(c) whether it is a fact that there is anger among the affected populace because of this; and

(d) details of Government guidelines and the persons who are ultimately responsible to ensure its compliance?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE (SHRI BABUL SUPRIYO): (a) to (c) Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEF&CC) has received application for grant of prior environmental clearance for Amtipani Chirodih Bauxite Mine located at Villages: Amtipani, Chirodih and Bahagara, Taluka: Bishunpur, District: Gumla (Jharkhand).

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