

- (ii) The fund allocation for the CER shall be deliberated in the Expert Appraisal Committee or State Expert Appraisal Committee or District Expert Appraisal Committee, as the case may be, with a due diligence subject to maximum percentage as prescribed in the Office Memorandum of the Ministry dated 1st May, 2018;
- (iii) The activities proposed under CER shall be worked out based on the issues raised during the public hearing, social need assessment, Rehabilitation and Resettlement plan, EMP, etc. and the proposed activities shall be restricted to the affected area around the project; and
- (iv) The entire activities proposed under the CER shall be treated as project and shall be monitored.

(c) The CER provisions were already in existence under the name of Enterprise Social Commitment. Through the guidelines issued dated 1st May, 2018, it has been further rationalised and structured.

#### **Impact of drought on environment**

180. SHRI K. SOMAPRASAD: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has noticed the severity and the after effect of drought in India;
- (b) if so, the steps taken by Government to face the challenges;
- (c) whether any studies have been conducted on the impact of drought situation on environment by Government or by any agencies; if so, the details thereof; and
- (d) whether any drought prediction system is introduced by Government, if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE (SHRI BABUL SUPRIYO): (a) to (c) As per the information provided by Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare (MoA&FW), South West Monsoon (June to September) contributes to more than 73% of annual rainfall in the country. Timely onset and spatial distribution of rainfall during South West monsoon is crucial for cultivation of Kharif Crops. Deficient South West Monsoon leads into drought like situation. During current year *i.e.* 2019-20, no State has submitted any memorandum seeking financial assistance from National Disaster Relief Fund in the wake of drought till date. No studies have been conducted by MoA&FW on the impact of drought situation on environment. However, the Government of

India has conducted study titled “Climate Change and India: A 4X4 assessment- a Sectoral and Regional Analysis for 2030s” which provides assessment of impacts of climate change in 2030 on four key sectors of Indian Economy, namely, agriculture, water, forests and human health in four climate sensitive regions of India, viz, the Himalayan region, the Western Ghats, the Coastal region and North Eastern Region.

(d) As per the information provided by Indian Meteorological Department (IMD), no drought prediction system is in place. However, rainfall monitoring is being done by IMD.

#### **Notification to ban red clay brick kilns**

181. SHRI ELAMARAM KAREEM: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government has issued notification proposing complete ban on red clay brick kilns within three hundred kilometre radius of Coal and Lignite based power plants across the country;

(b) if so, the total number of job losses out of about one crore workers engaged in the red clay brick kiln industry at present;

(c) whether any plan has been envisaged by Government to re-deploy those most economically and socially marginalised section of workers, who will be losing jobs in red clay brick kilns when the above proposals are implemented; and

(d) whether any compensation is proposed for such workers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE (SHRI BABUL SUPRIYO): (a) to (c) Central Government has issued draft amendment to fly ash notification *vide* notification dated 25.02.2019 with the objectives to restrict the excavation of top fertile soil for manufacture of bricks and promoting the utilization of fly ash in the manufacturing of building materials and in construction activity within 300 kilometres from coal or lignite based thermal power plants (TPPs). The draft notification has been issued for inviting comments/suggestions from all the stakeholders. The draft notification prescribe that no new red clay brick kiln shall be installed and operated within 300 km from TPPs. The existing red clay brick kilns located within 300 km shall be converted into fly ash based bricks or blocks or tiles manufacturing unit within one year. The above notification will be finalised after considering the views that are received.

(d) In order to encourage the conversion of the existing red clay brick kiln to fly ash based bricks or blocks or tiles manufacturing unit, the draft amendment