

Scientific disposal of fly-ash by thermal power plants

2443. SHRI SAMBHAJI CHHATRAPATI: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE be pleased to state:

- (a) the existing system of disposal of fly-ash causing environmental pollution;
- (b) whether Government is seriously considering the introduction of strict norms for scientific disposal of fly-ash by the thermal power plants and the time-frame likely to be fixed for compliance;
- (c) whether there are certain difficulties that thermal power plants have in scientific disposal of fly-ash and if so, the details thereof; and
- (d) whether Government proposes to help them find a solution to their problems to adopt scientific way for disposal of fly ash?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE (SHRI BABUL SUPRIYO): (a) As per the report of the Central Electricity Authority (CEA), utilization of fly ash in 195 thermal power plants (TPPs) has increased from 67.13% in 2017-18 to 77.59% in 2018-19. The remaining 22.41% of unutilized fly ash is dumped in ash ponds.

(b) The Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEF&CC) issued the first fly ash notification on 14th September, 1999, which has subsequently been amended in 2003, 2009 and 2016. The fly ash notification (1999) mandates the use of fly ash for the purpose of manufacturing ash-based products such as cement, concrete blocks, bricks, panels or any other material or for construction of roads, embankments, dams or for any other construction activity within a radius of 300 km from thermal power stations (TPPs). Besides, it is also mandatory to use fly ash in the external overburden, mines backfilling or stowing of mines within a distance of 50 km. In pursuance of Hon'ble National Green Tribunal (NGT) order dated 20.11.2018 and 12.03.2019, in the matter of O. A. No. 102 of 2014, a Joint Committee comprising MoEF&CC, CPCB, Ministry of Power etc. has finalized an action plan to achieve 100% fly ash utilization for non-compliant coal/lignite based TPPs. The maximum time period has been given till 2020-21 for compliance.

(c) Difficulties reported by the TPPs in scientific disposal of fly ash are (i) limited avenues of fly ash utilization near pit head TPPs; (ii) low availability of abandoned mines for back filling by fly ash; and (iii) high cost of transportation of fly ash at longer distances from TPPs.

(d) An action plan for enhanced utilization for fly ash in mines, roads, bricks, cements etc. has been prepared. MoEF&CC has requested Ministry of Power, Ministry of Coal, National Thermal Power Corporation (NTPC), Central Electricity Authority, Central Pollution Control Board, National Highway Authority of India, Indian Road Congress, Bureau of Indian Standards etc. for implementation of the action plan. CPCB has issued guidelines for disposal /utilisation of fly ash for reclamation of low lying areas and in stowing of abandoned mines/quarries in environmentally sound manner. MoEF&CC *vide* OM dated 28th August, 2019 has issued amendment in the existing environmental clearance conditions of thermal power plants and coal mines in line with the fly ash notification, 1999 as amended from time to time.

Impact of Coastal Regulation Zone Notification

2444. SHRI VAIKO:

Dr. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Coastal Regulation Zone (CRZ) Notification is impacting the coastal regions of the country due to relaxation given and subsequent increase in infrastructure activities;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the measures taken by Government to protect the coastal areas from the adverse effect of climate change vulnerabilities?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE (SHRI BABUL SUPRIYO): (a) and (b) The Coastal Regulation Zone has been notified with a view to ensure livelihood security to the fishermen communities and other local communities living in the coastal areas, to conserve and protect coastal stretches and marine area and to promote development in a sustainable manner based on scientific principles taking into account the dangers of natural hazards in the coastal areas, sea level rise due to global warming etc. Based on the environmental sensitivity of the coastal areas, the coastal stretches have been classified into four broad categories viz. CRZ-I, CRZ-II, CRZ-III and CRZ-IV and developmental activities have been prohibited/permitted/regulated in these areas. Comprehensive management