

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

**RAJYA SABHA**  
**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2282**  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 09.08.2021

**Guidelines for usage of fly ash**

2282. SHRI SAMIR ORAON

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

- (a) whether Government is aware of the fact that ash emanating from thermal power plants generating power across the country is polluting the soil, groundwater, rivers and air, if so, the details thereof; and
- (b) whether the Ministry has released any guidelines to mandatorily use this fly ash in the construction of bridges, dams and national highways within a certain radius of thermal power plant, if so, the details thereof?

**ANSWER**

**MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE**  
**(SHRI ASHWINI KUMAR CHOUBEY)**

- (a) and (b) Coal or lignite based thermal power plants (TPPs) generate ash (fly ash and bottom ash) from the combustion of coal or lignite for generation of electricity. If the ash is not managed properly in environmentally sound manner, it will cause pollution to the environment. In order to safeguard the environment from pollution caused from ash, the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEF&CC) has mandated Thermal Power Plants to control emissions from fuel gas by installing pollution control equipment such as Electro Static Precipitators and Bag filters, to within notified standards. To prevent groundwater contamination, ash ponds have been mandated to have HDPE (High Density Poly Ethylene) liner along with periodic monitoring of groundwater. The wastewater generated from ash ponds is allowed to discharge into water bodies only after it is treated through Ash Water Recycling System (AWRS) and meeting the discharge standards.

The MoEF&CC notified Fly ash Utilisation Notification, 1999 vide S.O.763(E) and amendments vide S.O.979(E) dated 27.08.2003, S.O.2804(E) dated 03.11.2009, and S.O.254(E) dated 25.01.2016 for taking effective steps to achieve 100% utilization of fly ash generated from thermal power plants. As per Fly ash amendment notifications vide S.O.2804(E) dated 03.11.2009 and S.O. 254(E) dated 25.01.2016, no agency, person or organisation shall within a radius of three hundred kilometers of a coal or lignite thermal power plant, undertake construction or approve design for construction of roads or flyover embankments with top soil and the guidelines/ specifications issued by the Indian Road Congress (IRC) as contained in IRC specification No. SP: 58 of 2001 as amended from time to time, regarding use of fly ash shall be followed.

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