

Seventeenth Loksabha

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Title: Regarding Enquiry of a Private Company by a Central Team for causing Environmental Pollution in Jharsuguda district in the Bargarh Parliamentary Constituency. - Laid.

SHRI SURESH PUJARI (BARGARH): I would like to bring to the notice of the Government that Jharsuguda District in Bargarh Lok Sabha Constituency is facing the consequences of enormous environmental pollution mainly due to emission of greenhouse gases and faulty methods of fly-ash disposal by Industries. As per regulation, the fly ash should be disposed of in lowlands such as landfills for dry ash and in safe ponds for wet ash. It has been strictly forbidden to use agricultural land for ash disposal. It has also been forbidden to transport the ashes in open vehicles to prevent aerial dust circulation. These norms are being constantly violated by a private company in Jharsuguda causing serious health problems. Further, the heaps of ashes deposited as ash hills on open plain land get washed into the water resources contaminating the water and the animals in water such as fishes through which they enter the food chain. The ash is contaminating the crop fields severely hampering crop production and causing health hazards including damage to the male reproductive system and cancer. This is due to the high exposure of the population to the toxic constituents in the fly-ash such as Lead Cadmium, Mercury, Chromium, Arsenic, Molybdenum, Thallium, Silica etc.

The Hon'ble Minister of Environment, Forest & Climate Change had directed the Central Pollution Control Board to cause enquiry which in turn directed the State Pollution Control Board to do so and the State Board gave a clean chit to the private Company without proper enquiry.

This was proved from the fact that the Green Tribunal, Eastern Zone, Kolkata on more than one occasion including one on 06.05,2022 vide an order in Original Application No-10/2021/E Z found the Company guilty and imposed a fine of Rupees One Crore with a direction to the State Pollution Board to regularly monitor it.

I, therefore, request the Hon'ble Minister to cause an enquiry by a Central Team comprising Environmental experts, take stern action against the erring Company.