

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 853
TO BE ANSWERED ON 27.07.2023

CPCB report on Bhramapuram fire case in Kerala

853. SHRI PRAKASH JAVADEKAR:

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

- (a) whether Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) has prepared a report on Bhramapuram fire on the dump site in Kochi, Kerala;
- (b) if so, the finding of the report;
- (c) the actions taken/proposed to be taken by the Ministry; and
- (d) whether CPCB is satisfied with the actions taken by Kochi Corporation and the State Government of Kerala ?

ANSWER

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

(a) to (d): A detailed report was prepared by CPCB on the fire mishap which occurred at the Municipal Solid Waste dumpsite of Kochi Municipal Corporation at Brahmapuram based upon inspections carried out on 10th and 13th March 2023.

The findings of the report are that unsegregated solid waste was dumped haphazardly unscientifically at solid waste dump site. Only small quantity of waste was composted thorough windrow composting. The proactive measures to prevent fire mishaps like methane gas collection/ gas venting systems, active surveillance systems to monitor hotspots and to put off small fires as and when happens, fully equipped firefighting arrangements, proper access or approach roads, proper systems to maintain occupational safety, isolating sectors to prevent fire spreading, prevention of dumping hot loads in the site, etc., were not available at site. It was also reported that fire and smoke choked the air quality of Kochi city and surrounding municipalities.

Based on the report, Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) Delhi issued directions under Section 5 of the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 on 24th March 2023 directing Kerala State Pollution Control Board to identify the cause of fire, environmental impact and impact on health, direct Kochi Municipal Corporation to submit Action Plan for biomining and review the status of municipal solid waste facilities and to levy interim Environmental Compensation for Rs.30 crore and also submit compliance status of CPCB directions dated 27.01.2021 & 26.05.2022 about dumpsites in Kerala including Brahmapuram. In compliance of Directions issued by CPCB, Kerala SPCB has submitted the status report and the action taken report of Kochi Municipal Corporation.
