

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION No. 1328
TO BE ANSWERED ON 25.07.2022

Ban on Coal as a Fuel

1328. SHRI RAMESH BIDHURI:

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

- (a) whether the Government has proposed to ban coal as a fuel in NCR from 2023;
- (b) if so, the detail thereof along with the reasons therefor; and
- (c) the steps taken by the Government for finding alternative source of coal as fuel?

ANSWER

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

(a) to (c)

With a view to abate air pollution in the Delhi-NCR region, shifting of industrial applications to cleaner mode of fuels like PNG etc. has been the priority of the Government.

As per the directives of the Hon'ble Apex Court and suggestion from general public as well as experts in the field, a policy to curb 'air pollution menace occurring every year in Delhi and National Capital Region' has been finalised. The policy *inter-alia* contains approved fuel list for the Delhi-NCR whereby heavily polluting fossil fuels like coal etc. have been proposed to be banned with effect from 01.01.2023. However, coal with low sulphur shall be permitted as fuel in Thermal Power Plants (TPPs) in the NCR.

Relatively cleaner fuels like bio-mass fuels and low sulphur fuel-LSHS etc. have been permitted to be used in NCR areas, beyond the jurisdiction of NCT of Delhi.

Apart from constitution of expert group, meetings of full Commission (CAQM) etc., the steps taken by the Government for finding alternative source of coal as fuel *inter-alia* include:

- (i) Co-firing of biomass pellets/torrefied pellets in coal based thermal power plants;
- (ii) Promotion of biomass pellets and briquettes manufacturing units for use in industries by Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE);
- (iii) Setting up of second generation bio-fuels (ethanol) plants by Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas;
- (iv) 'Sustainable Alternative towards Affordable Transportation' i.e. 'SATAT' scheme to promote setting up of Compressed Bio Gas projects using biomass as raw material;

- (v) Schemes to encourage generation of solar power like Solar Park Scheme, VGF Schemes etc.;
- (vi) Waste to Energyplants etc.
