

**Regarding need to provide dry ash of Thermal Power Plants at free of cost or subsidised price to MSME companies manufacturing dry bricks-Laid**

**SHRI ESWARASAMY K. (POLLACHI):** In 1999, the Union Government encouraged the companies to provide free dry ash from thermal power plants to kilns so that they would not harm the environment, but today the same Government is destroying these companies. Government Order No. 763 dated 14/09/1999 has ordered that at least 20% of the dry ash generated from thermal power plants should be provided free of cost to the companies that manufacture bricks and building materials from that dry ash. In December 2021, the Hon'ble National Green Tribunal (NGT) had issued an interim order against the order issued by the MOEF, considering the environmental pollution and the welfare of MSME companies. About 25,000 MSME companies across India are operating on this dry ash. It is the livelihood of lakhs of workers. Currently, due to the non-provision of free dry ash, about 60% of the companies have been pushed into a very poor situation and their accounts in banks are in NPA status. Therefore, as per the guidelines of Government Order 763(e) of the Pollution Control Board, I request the Union Government to provide it free of cost or at a preferential price to MSME companies manufacturing dry bricks.