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March 19, 2020.

Topic: Environmental Pollution.

Importance:- Prelims as well as Mains

What is the news?

- ***Brick kilns of Punjab creating an environmental nuisance by using ground rubber as fuel.***
- Brick kilns in Punjab have started using ground rubber of used tyres as a fuel.
- But, the kilns are not allowed to do so because they are legally supposed to use only coal or sawdust as fuel.
- Ground rubber is also known as crumb rubber.

About ground rubber:-

- Crumb rubber is recycled rubber produced from automotive

and truck scrap tires.

- During the recycling process, steel and tire cord (fluff) are removed, leaving tire rubber with a granular consistency
- In the ground rubber market, there are two classes of particle sizes: “ground” rubber (10 mesh and smaller) and “coarse” rubber (larger than 10 mesh, with a maximum size of a one-half inch).
- The use of this rubber is leading to the release of more sulfur dioxide in the atmosphere.
- Worse, detection of the usage of this fuel is not as easy as the fumes emitted by the use of ground rubber is colourless.
- Also, the ground rubber is quite cheap as compared to coal.
- Coal is available for ₹10 per kg whereas ground rubber is available for ₹7 to ₹8.
- The bus and truck used tyres are being used in the kilns mostly.
- Also, the ground rubber is giving a lighter colour to the bricks.
- Punjab has around 2700 Kilns and out of these, around 60% of them have started switching to the use of ground rubber.

Campaign Launched:-

- ***Punjab Pollution Control Board (PPCB) has launched a campaign to check this menace.***
- The PPCB is also trying its best to help the kilns transit to Zigzag Technology for better environmental pollution control.
- Besides, PPCB has set a limit of 60 micrograms as the

permissible limit for sulfur dioxide, but this limit would be breached.

- So, now state government and PPCB would impose the environmental guidelines in a Stern manner and would also impose fines on the kilns

(Source:-The Tribune)

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