GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4249
ANSWERED ON:23.04.2008
HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENT HAZARDS DUE TO INDUSTRIAL POLLUTION
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Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the multi-crore industries continue to pose a danger to health and environment in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government is not taking serious action despite warning by the researchers;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the steps being taken by the Government to protect the health of children from ill-effects of Industrial Pollution?

Answer

MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA)

(a) to (e) Under the provisions of Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974 and Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1981, all industries are required to obtain consent to establish and consent to operate as well as authorization under Hazardous Waste (Management and Handling) Rules, 1989. Many of the large scale industries having large investment fall under the 17 categories of highly polluting industries and grossly polluting industries (GPI). As on December 2007, a total of 2718 number of 17 categories of industries have been monitored. Out of these, 1955 industries are reportedly complying with pollution control norms, 437 industries have been found defaulters and 326 industries have been closed down. Likewise, a total of 1145 number of grossly polluting industries have been monitored. Out of these, 750 industries are reportedly complying, 109 industries are defaulters and 286 industries have been closed down. Action is taken against the defaulter units, which are found operating in violation of the pollution control laws.

As specified in the notification on Environmental Impact Assessment dated 14th September 2006, the new industries or developmental projects are required to obtain Environmental Clearance (EC). During the process of EC, the issues relating to health, safety and environment are examined by the Environment Impact Assessment Authority (EIAA) at the Central level or by the concerned State Impact Assessment Authority (SEIAA) at the State level.