

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1602  
ANSWERED ON:15.07.2009  
SAFE DISPOSAL OF CFL  
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**Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:**

- (a) whether the Compact Fluorescent Lamps (CFLs) are health hazards as per the report of Centre for Science and Environment;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether the Government has fixed any norms for manufacturing of CFL;
- (d) if so, the details thereof and the action taken against those violating the norms; and
- (e) the steps taken by the Government for safe disposal of CFL?

**Answer**

MINISTER OF THE STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH)

(a) & (b) The Centre for Science and Environment has published an article entitled "Let there be CFL" in "Down to Earth" dated 31st January 2009. The Report, inter alia, mentions about the presence of mercury in Compact Fluorescent Lamps (CFLs) and its health hazards.

(c), (d) & (e) A Task Force was constituted by the Government to evolve a policy on "Environmentally Sound Management of mercury in Fluorescent Lamps". The Technical Committee set up by this Task Force has developed the "Guidelines for Environmentally Sound Mercury Management in Fluorescent Lamps Sector". The Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) has been requested to develop standards for mercury content in the Fluorescent Lamps (FLs). BIS grants and monitors BIS Certification Marks License to manufacturers to ensure that the CFLs being manufactured conform to the BIS specifications. According to the BIS, the quality of lamps manufactured by (i) M/s Crompton Greaves Limited, Vadodara, (ii) M/s Permalite Electricals (P) Limited, Delhi, (iii) M/s Atlas Industries, Delhi, (iv) M/s Glitter Overseas, Solan was found to be not as per the prescribed standards for CFLs. BIS has cancelled the Certification Marks Licenses of these four manufactures during 2008-2009.