

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
POWER
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1011
ANSWERED ON:30.07.2010
FLY ASH FROM THERMAL POWER PLANTS
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Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has carried out any environmental impact assessment of the quantum of fly ash coming out from the Thermal Power Plants in the country including Tamil Nadu;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor;
- (c) the permissible limit prescribed by pollution control board regarding fly ash; and
- (d) the remedial measures taken or proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI BHARATSINH SOLANKI)

(a) & (b) : The environmental impact of fly ash coming from thermal power plants is studied as part of Environment Impact Assessment (EIA) study by the project developers based on which environmental clearance is accorded by Ministry of Environment and Forests (MoEF) to the project. The study includes land and water requirement for ash disposal, plans for controlling fly ash emission, management of ash and ash utilization and impact on surface and ground water resources due to ash disposal.

(c) : The permissible limit prescribed by the Pollution Control Board regarding fly ash are:

- (i) For generation capacity 210 MW or more : 150 mg/Nm³
- (ii) For generation capacity less than 210 MW : 300 mg/Nm³

(d) : Thermal Power Plants are taking following measures in this regard:

- (i) Installation of High efficiency Electro-Static Precipitator (ESP) to arrest the emission of fly ash particle.
- (ii) Installation of High chimney to have wider spread of ash particles.
- (iii) Collecting fly ash in dry form so as to maximize its use and mixing unutilized ash with water for disposing off in the ash pond.
- (iv) Efforts made to progressively increase the fly ash utilization in cement, brick making, land filling, mine filling and others areas as a result the fly ash utilization has increased from 9.64% in 1996-97 to 57.11% in 2008- 09.
- (v) Provision of 50 meter wide green belt all around the plant periphery to minimize dust nuisance outside the plant boundary.

Further Ministry of Environment and Forests` notification dated 14th September, 1999 read with amendments dated 27th August, 2003 and 3rd Nov., 2009 stipulates that all coal or lignite based thermal power stations or expansion units in operation before the date of the notification are to achieve 100% fly ash utilization within five years from the date of issue of the notification. The new coal, or lignite based thermal power stations or expansion units commissioned after the notification are to achieve 100% fly ash utilization within four years from the date of commissioning.