

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
POWER
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2094
ANSWERED ON:06.08.2010
HARMFUL EFFECTS OF USE OF CFLs
Viswanathan Shri P.

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the mass use of Compact Fluorescent Lamps (CFLs) is likely to cause possible environmental hazards due to high concentration of mercury present in these lamps;
- (b) if so, the facts and details in this regard;
- (c) whether the Government has conducted any study to assess the harmful effects of these CFLs; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

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

(a) to (d) : It has been reported that the amount of mercury in Compact Fluorescent Lamps (CFLs) ranges from 1.3 milligram to 5 milligram, which does not pose health hazard to humans as long as the bulbs are intact or in use. Further, the Ministry of Environment & Forests (MOEF) had constituted a Task Force to evolve policy on 'Environmentally Sound Management of Mercury in Fluorescent Lamps'. The Technical Committee constituted by this Task Force has prepared the Guidelines for environmentally sound mercury management in Fluorescent Lamps Sector. These guidelines prescribe best practices at various levels, such as at manufacturer's level, that include mercury consumption, process technology, raw mercury distillation, on-site storage, treatment, recycling and disposal of mercury bearing wastes, mercury spill management and at consumer's level which includes handling of used/broken lamps, consumer awareness pertaining to collection, transport, treatment and disposal of used fluorescent lamps.