

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
POWER  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2253  
ANSWERED ON:06.08.2010  
THERMAL POWER PLANTS  
Ahir Shri Hansraj Gangaram

**Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:**

- (a) the details of the thermal power plants functioning in the country at present, Plant-wise and State-wise;
- (b) whether the Government proposes to reduce the country's dependence on the thermal power plants in view of the shortage of coal reserves and the pollution caused thereby;
- (c) if so, the details thereof along with the alternative arrangements being made by the Government in this regard;
- (d) whether several thermal power plants are being set up in the already polluted areas of the country including Maharashtra;
- (e) if so, the details thereof along with the reasons therefor; and
- (f) the corrective measures being 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) : The State-wise details of thermal power plants (above 25 MW) in operation in the country during 2010-11 (April 2010 – June 2010) are given at Annex.

(b) : As of now, coal continues to remain mainstay of our electricity generation programme during the 11th and 12th Plans.

(c) : Does not arise in view of reply to part (b) above. However, capacity addition through thermal generation is being supplemented through, hydro, nuclear and Renewable Energy Sources.

(d) to (f) : Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) in association with Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), New Delhi have carried out an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) of industrial clusters across the country based on Comprehensive Environmental Pollution Index (CEPI) with the aim of identifying polluted industrial clusters and prioritizing planning needs for intervention to improve the quality of environment in these industrial clusters and the nation as a whole. The assessment so carried out has been documented in the form of report entitled `Comprehensive Environment Assessment of Industrial Clusters`. In all, 88 industrial clusters have been assessed.

Ministry of Environment and Forests (MoEF) have, vide Office Memorandum dated 13th January, 2010, imposed temporary restrictions on consideration of developmental projects in the Industrial clusters/areas identified by Central Pollution Control Board as critically polluted. As per the above Office Memorandum (O.M.) of MOE&F, the restriction on consideration of projects will apply for a period of 8 months up to August, 2010, during which time Central pollution Control Board along with respective state pollution control board/UT Pollution control committees will finalize a time bound action plan for improving the environmental quality in these identified clusters/areas. It is further stated in the aforesaid O.M. that the situation will be reviewed thereafter and further instructions issued accordingly.

Thermal Projects are being set up in the area considering various factors like nearness to coal field, availability of land and water and other infrastructure facilities. The project authorities have been conducting Environmental Impact Assessment Studies and obtaining Environmental Clearances from MoE&F before constructing thermal power plants. However, some of thermal power plants are already under construction in the areas now considered as polluted as per the above mentioned report including Maharashtra.