

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
POWER
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3913
ANSWERED ON:31.07.2009
POLLUTION BY THERMAL POWER PLANTS
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Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the fly ash released by thermal power plants is polluting environment;
- (b) if so, the fly ash collected/stored (in tonnes) by these plants annually;
- (c) whether the Government has prepared any action plan to check environment pollution being caused by fly ash; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

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

(a) : The ash generated in thermal power plants is being arrested by installing high efficiency electro static precipitator (ESP) with high stacks for wider spread of ash particles so that the particulate emission from power plants is within the emission limit prescribed by Central Pollution Control Board. The fly ash collected in ESPs is disposed off either in the designated ash pond or made use of in various applications.

(b) : As per the information compiled by Central Electricity Authority, total fly ash generated from all thermal power plants is about 116 million tones for 2008-09, out of which about 66 million tonnes was utilized in various modes of utilization and remaining 50 million tonnes was stored in ash ponds by the plants.

(c) & (d) : As per the notification issued by Ministry of Environment & Forests, the new Thermal Power Stations are to achieve 100% fly ash utilization in a time bound programme of 9 years. The electrostatic precipitator provided for arresting fly ash are upgraded in existing thermal power plants to meet the emission stipulations as prescribed by Ministry of Environment and Forests/Central Pollution Control Board.

To minimize the dust nuisance outside the thermal power boundary, 50 Meter wide green belt is being provided all around the plant periphery and to gainfully utilize the fly ash collected from the ESPs, dry fly ash collection system are being provided.