

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3589

ANSWERED ON:29.07.2009

VIOLATION OF ENVIRONMENTAL NORMS BY INDUSTRIAL UNITS

Rathwa Shri Ramsinhbhai Patalbhai

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether some of the industrial units including Power Plants and Steel Plants are violating environmental rules;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; State-wise
- (c) the details of fly ash exhaust dumped by these Plants in the country, State-wise;
- (d) whether any study / survey has been conducted about the impact of these plants on environment and human health; and
- (e) if so, the details of the States found most polluted including the action taken / proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

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

(a) & (b): There are 23 Thermal Power Plants in the country which are not complying with the emission norms prescribed by the State Pollution Control Boards (SPCBs). The State-wise detail of these non-compliant Power Plants is enclosed as Annexure-I. In case of major integrated Iron and Steel Plants (13 Nos.), no violation has been observed except that one coke oven battery of Tata Steel in Jharkhand was found to be exceeding stack emission norms for particulate matter. The Plant has been asked by the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) to submit closure schedule of the battery.

(c): The total fly ash generation in the country is estimated to be 112.29 million tonnes per annum (MTA), out of which 58.37 MTA is utilised and 53.92 MTA is disposed into ponds. The State-wise fly ash generation from Power Plants is enclosed as Annexure-II.

(d): No study has been conducted by the CPCB so far to see the impact of these Plants on the environment and human health. However, the National Thermal Power Corporation (NTPC) has conducted a study entitled "Baseline Health Survey on Chronic Respiratory Illness in nearby population of Rihand Nagar, District Sonbhadra, U.P." during 2000-2001. Chronic bronchitis was found to be the commonest problem in the area.

(e): The States of West Bengal, Uttar Pradesh, Maharashtra and Jharkhand are found to be most polluted due to the emissions generated by the Power Plants. The action taken/proposed to be taken by the Government are as under.

All defaulting Power Plants have been asked to take measures in a time bound manner to ensure compliance of environmental standards.

Directions under Section 18 (1) (b) of Air Act, 1981 have been issued to the concerned SPCBs by CPCB to direct the concerned Plants to comply with standards.

Non-compliant Plants have been asked to submit the bank guarantee to concerned SPCBs.

Inspections are carried out to verify the compliance under Environmental Surveillance Squad (ESS) of the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB).