

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

STARRED QUESTION NO:114
ANSWERED ON:08.08.2011
ENVIRONMENTAL REFORMS
Singh Shri Rakesh

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

- (a) whether any norms have been laid down for environmental reforms regarding emission cut in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof, if not, the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether there are reports/complaints that the said norms have been violated in the country;
- (d) if so, the details thereof alongwith the action taken thereon; and
- (e) the steps taken/being taken by the Government to strengthen the environmental norms in this regard?

Answer

MINISTER OF THE STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRIMATI JAYANTHI NATARAJAN)

(a) to (e). A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (e) OF LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 114 TO BE ANSWERED ON 8th AUGUST, 2011 REGARDING ENVIRONMENTAL REFORMS RAISED BY SHRI RAKESH SINGH.

(a) & (b). The Central Government has adopted the National Environment Policy in the year 2006. It says that the setting of environmental standards/norms must reflect the economic and social development situation in which they apply. Setting environmental standards would involve several considerations, i.e., risks to human health, risks to other environmental entities, technical feasibility, costs of compliance and strategic considerations. Further, it says that environmental norms may not be universal and each country should set standards in terms of its national priorities, policy objectives and resources. The Policy also says that the tendency to prescribe specific abatement technologies should be eschewed, since these may unnecessarily increase the unit and societal costs of achieving the ambient environmental quality, and in any case because a technology that is considered ideal meeting a given emission norms may not be acceptable on other relevant parameters.

The Government has notified the revised National Ambient Air Quality Standards for 12 pollutants in November, 2009, taking into account public health impact and global best practices. The Government has also notified source specific emission norms for 40 different categories of industries and processes.

(c) & (d). The reports and complaints on non-compliance to environmental norms include the random inspection reports of 17 categories of highly polluting industries of the Central Pollution Control Board(CPCB) under its Environmental Surveillance Programme. A total of 258 such industries have been inspected by CPCB during 2010-11, out of which, directions have been issued to 59 industries for non-compliance to stipulated norms under Section 5 of the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986. Also, directions have been issued to concerned State Pollution Control Boards under Section 18(1)(b) of the Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1981 in respect of 33 other non-compliant industries. The defaulting industries have been asked to submit time -bound action plans in this regard.

(e). Existing environmental norms are reviewed from time to time and made more stringent in accordance with the prevalent situation and environmental norms are also notified afresh for new category of industry/process. Since March, 2008, environmental norms have been notified for 12 new categories of industries and existing norms reviewed for 10 categories of industries.