

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:729
ANSWERED ON:19.03.2012
IRREGULARITIES BY LIQUOR COMPANIES
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Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has taken any measures to curb the environment related irregularities being committed by the liquor manufacturing companies;
- (b) if so, the details of inspections carried out in these companies during the last three years; and
- (c) the details of irregularities noticed by the Government during inspections alongwith action taken thereon?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) FOR ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRIMATI JAYANTHI NATARAJAN)

(a) As per the Charter on Corporate Responsibility for Environmental Protection (CREP), 2003, Molasses based Distilleries have to comply with any or combination of the following measures for control of pollution:

1. Composting with press mud.
2. Concentration and drying/ incineration of spent-wash.
3. Treatment of spent wash through bio-methanation followed by two stage secondary treatment and dilution of the treated effluent with process water for irrigation as per norms prescribed by Central pollution Control Board (CPCB)/Ministry of Environment and Forests (MoEF).
4. Treatment of spent-wash through bio-methanation followed by secondary treatment for controlled discharge into sea through a proper submerged marine outfall at a point permitted by the State Pollution Control Board (SPCB)/CPCB in consultation with the National Institute of Oceanography.

Further, in June 2008, the CPCB has asked existing distilleries (both standalone and those attached with sugar units) not complying with the required environmental standards to switch over to emerging technologies (evaporation, concentration, incineration of spent wash for power generation) from the existing technologies of composting, ferti-irrigation and one time land application of spent wash in a time bound manner.

Further in 2010, the CPCB has drafted guidelines for the co-processing of spent wash concentrate of Distilleries in Cement Kilns.

(b)&(c) The CPCB has undertaken inspection of distilleries under its Environmental Surveillance Squad (ESS) Programme. Distilleries found to be significantly violating the prescribed effluent norms/guidelines were issued directions. In most of the cases, distilleries were found storing accumulated spent wash in lagoons more than the prescribed storage capacity. The details of inspections carried and action taken thereon during the last three years are given at Annexure.