

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4919
ANSWERED ON:07.05.2012
VIOLATION OF POLLUTION NORMS
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Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has any monitoring mechanism to observe the level of pollution around Thermal Power Plants;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether several Thermal Power Plants including Bhusawal Thermal Power Station in Maharashtra are violating the air and water pollution norms in the country;
- (d) if so, whether the Government has received any complaints in this regard;
- (e) if so, the details thereof; and
- (f) the steps taken/being taken by the Government to check the pollution level and the development of the greenery around the Thermal Power Plants in the country including the Bhusawal Thermal Power Station?

Answer

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

(a) & (b) The State Pollution Control Boards have a monitoring mechanism in place to carry out the ambient air monitoring and stack monitoring in the premises of Thermal Power plants (TPPs) at regular intervals.

(c)to(e) In Maharashtra, there are fifteen number of major TPPs based on coal as fuel, being monitored by the Maharashtra Pollution Control Board (MPCB). In the case of Bhusawal Thermal Power Station (BTPS), the MPCB has found Respirable Suspended Particulate Matter exceeding the consented limit. The MPCB has received complaints from nearby Grampanchayats, opposition leader of Maharashtra Assembly and other NGOs about BTPS. The complaints were in respect of water, air and soil pollution due to which the agricultural production was alleged to be damaged.

(f) The MPCB has investigated the complaints, issued directions and stipulated certain conditions to BTPS to reduce the pollution level. The Board has also forfeited bank guarantee of Rs. 3 lakhs of the BTPS.

The following steps in general have been taken by the Government to minimize/control the pollution in the TPPs:

- (i) Emission and effluent standards for control of air & water pollution have been notified.
- (ii) Power Plants have been directed to use beneficiated coal (low ash coal) to minimize dust generation.
- (iii) Flyash utilization has been made mandatory to mitigate problems related to flyash disposal.
- (iv) The TPPs have been asked to provide green belt in and around the premises in 30% of the total land available, while granting environmental clearance.