

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
POWER  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:5843  
ANSWERED ON:11.05.2012  
DISPOSAL OF ASH OF POWER PLANT  
Muttamwar Shri Vilas Baburao

**Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:**

- (a) the quantum of ash disposed off out of the total ash produced from coal based Power plants;
- (b) whether huge quantity of water is being used for handling the ash and while disposing it, toxic elements such as Mercury, Arsenic, Lead and Cadmium also spread in the environment; and
- (c) if so, the details thereof and the corrective measures taken by the Government in this regard?

**Answer**

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER ( SHRI K.C. VENUGOPAL )

- (a) : As reported by Central Electricity Authority (CEA), out of 131.09 million tons of ash generated from the Thermal Power Plants in the country, 73.13 million tons was utilized during the year 2010-11.
- (b) & (c) : Water quantity of 4 to 5 times of the ash is required for handling the ash disposal. No release of toxic elements like mercury, arsenic, lead, cadmium, etc. to the environment has been brought to the notice of Central Electricity Authority. Moreover, Ministry of Environment and Forests stipulates lining of ash ponds at the time of environmental clearance coal/lignite based thermal power projects so as to ensure that the ash water does not percolate and get mixed up with ground water.