

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4510
ANSWERED ON:22.04.2013
POLLUTION BY COAL BASED THERMAL PLANTS
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Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government's attention has been drawn to a study report entitled 'Coal Kills' An Assessment of Death and Diseases caused by India's dirtiest energy source` by Urban emissions info and Greenpeace India which says Emissions from coal-fired power are responsible for a large mortality and morbidity burden on human health;
- (b) if so, the details thereof along with the salient features/findings of the report;and
- (c) the steps taken/being taken by the Government to curb the pollution emitting from such coal based power plants and its effect on the people residing nearby?

Answer

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

(a)&(b) Comprehensive studies of health impacts caused by particulate air pollution attributable to coal power plants have been carried out in the United States of America (USA) and parts of Europe, such data is hard to come by in India. However an attempt has been made by the Conservation Trust, Urban emissions info and Greenpeace India from a database of coal- fired power plants for the operational period of 2011-2012 .The report has highlighted that coal is taking a heavy toll on human life across large parts of the country. Further the said report has stated India coal plants resulted in 80,000 to 1,15,000 premature deaths and more than 20 million asthma cases from exposure to total PM10 pollution,

(c) The Ministry has been taking multi-pronged steps to curb the pollution emitting from such coal based power plants which includes:

Use of blended coal or beneficiated coal for coal based Thermal Power Plants.

In order to mitigate problems related to flyash disposal such as land degradation, fugitive dust emission from ash ponds, flyash utilization has been made mandatory since September 14, 1999.

Implementation of the recommendations of Charter on Corporate Responsibility for Environment Protection (CREP).

Emphasis is being given to cleaner coal technology (like supercritical, Circulating Fluidized Bed Combustion) while granting environmental clearance to new coal based thermal power plants.