

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:5341
ANSWERED ON:29.04.2013
SAFE DISPOSAL OF CFL
Maadam Shri Vikrambhai Arjanbhai

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

- (a) whether the Government has estimated the details of the amount of toxic mercuric waste generated by the use of mercury lamps including Compact Fluorescent Lamp
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government has issued guidelines to States asking them to encourage establishment of recycling units for mercuric toxic waste;
- (d) if so, the names of the States who in this regard;
- (e) whether the Government has sought any report on the status of the work;
- (f) if so, whether the Government plans to frame new policies by providing incentives for safe disposal to the end consumers; and
- (g) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

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

(a) to (g): As per a study of The Energy and Resources Institute (TERI) titled 'Master plan study for collection, recycling and safe disposal of end-of-life mercury bearing lamps and associated electronics' supported by Electric Lamp and Component Manufacturers' Association of India (ELCOMA), the mercury released into the environment, from fluorescent lamp sector has been estimated at around 8.8 tonnes considering entire lot of Fluorescent Lamps (FLs); Compact Fluorescent Lamps (CFLs) and Fluorescent Tube lights (FTLs) and Metal Halides etc. in the year 2009.

Ministry of Environment and Forests had constituted a Task Force to evolve a policy on "Environmentally Sound Management of mercury in Fluorescent Lamps". A Technical Committee, constituted by this Task Force, had prepared "Guidelines for Environmentally Sound Mercury Management in Fluorescent Lamps Sector". These guidelines prescribe the best practices at various levels, such as at manufacturer's level and include aspects relating to mercury consumption, process technology, raw mercury distillation, on-site storage, treatment, recycling, disposal of mercury bearing wastes and mercury spill management. The best practices at consumer's level include handling of used/broken lamps, consumer awareness pertaining to collection, transport, treatment and disposal of used fluorescent lamps.

Ministry of Environment and Forests (MoEF) and Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) have written to all the State Governments and Union Territories to encourage establishment of recycling units so that the fused CFLs and FTLs are properly collected and the mercury is recovered and recycled scientifically and safely.