

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
POWER
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:5851
ANSWERED ON:02.05.2013
MONITORING OF THERMAL POWER PROJECTS
Ahir Shri Hansraj Gangaram

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Union Government is monitoring/proposes to monitor production of thermal power in the country in view of the increasing pollution and limited coal reserves;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether cases of protests against setting up of thermal power projects due to environmental pollution have come to the notice of the Government and the Government is reconsidering setting up of thermal power plants in the country;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the remedial measures being taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) OF THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA)

(a) & (b) : While production of Thermal Power Plant is being monitored to ensure targeted production, mitigating measures are being taken to reduce pollution from Thermal Power Plant as per the prescribed norms. The coal supplied to Thermal Power Station is also being closely monitored to ensure coal availability to Thermal Power Plant across the country.

(c) & (d) : There have been few protests against setting up of Thermal Power Plants due to environmental pollution. In one such case relating to Thermal Power Plant of M/s Nagarajuna Construction Company Ltd (NCC) at Sompeta in Srikakulam District of Andhra Pradesh (AP), Ministry of Environment & Forests (MoE&F) had suspended the Environment Clearance and advised the Independent Power Producer (IPP) to maintain status-quo with regard to the development of the project. The developer has shifted the location of the project from Srikakulam to Nellore district. In another case relating to the power project of M/s East Coast Energy Pvt Ltd located at Kakrapalli village in Srikakulam district of AP., MoE&F had directed the IPP to suspend the construction work. Based on review of the project, MOE&F had restored the environmental clearance to the project.

(e) : All the thermal power stations are equipped with high efficiency Electro Static Precipitators (ESP) and low NOx burner to limit the emissions of particulate matter and Nitrogen Oxides. High stacks of upto 275 meters are being stipulated to limit the impact of sulphur di-oxide emissions. In critically polluted areas, MOE&F has stipulated installation of Flue Gas Desulphurization Equipment to arrest Sulphur di-oxide emissions. 100% Fly ash utilization is also being stipulated from 4th year of installation so as to limit the ash disposal on land.