

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:151
ANSWERED ON:05.08.2013
MERCURY MANAGEMENT IN CFL SECTOR
Shankar Alias Kushal Tiwari Shri Bhisma

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

- (a) whether the Compact Fluorescent Lamps (CFLs) contain high content of mercury;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government has formulated any guidelines for environment friendly mercury management in CFL Sector;
- (d) if so, the details thereof;
- (e) whether the Government has any proposal for recycling of the said lamps properly to contain mercury pollution; and
- (f) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

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

(a) & (b): The concentration of mercury in Compact Fluorescent Lamps (CFLs) may vary depending on the type of technology used in dosing of mercury.

(c) & (d): The 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 related to mercury consumption, process technology, raw mercury distillation, on-site storage, treatment, recycling and disposal of mercury bearing wastes, 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.

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