

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2166
ANSWERED ON:02.12.2009
POLLUTION FROM SUGAR MILLS
Guddu Shri Premchandra

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

- (a) whether the guidelines in respect of environment are being violated by the sugar mills across the country, particularly in Uttar Pradesh;
- (b) if so, whether the Government has received any complaints regarding damage of crops due to polluted water drained from various sugar mills; and
- (c) if so, the action taken against the guilty officials granting environmental clearances to these sugar mills causing pollution?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) FOR ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH)

- (a) The environmental guidelines include framework for siting of an industry which may be issued by the concerned State Government or the State Pollution Control Board (SPCB) in a particular State or by the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) at national level. The adherence to the said guidelines is to be ensured by the respective SPCBs. The Uttar Pradesh Pollution Control Board (UPPCB) has not reported violation of guidelines by sugar mills in Uttar Pradesh.
- (b) A total of 19 complaints regarding pollution caused by sugar mills have been received in the CPCB, in the last four years, including 16 complaints for Uttar Pradesh. There is an allegation of damage of crops by disposal of effluent of sugar industry in 08 complaints out of which 06 are for Uttar Pradesh during the said period.
- (c) Grant of environmental clearance is a separate process under the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986. The sugar mills above 5000 tonnes per day cane crushing capacity require prior environmental clearance under the law. The compliance of the conditions of environmental clearance is monitored by the concerned Regional Office of the Ministry, the CPCB and the concerned SPCBs . The issue of pollution relates more to compliance of these conditions and not the grant of environmental clearance per se.