

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:542

ANSWERED ON:09.12.2013

POLLUTION BY OIL REFINERIES

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

- (a) whether the oil refineries which produces petroleum products are polluting the environment in the country;
- (b) if so, the details of the polluting refineries and the reaction of the Government in this regard;
- (c) whether many countries in the world have undertaken remedial steps to address this problem;
- (d) if so, the details thereof and facts in this regard; and
- (e) the measures taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

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

(a) & (b) As reported by the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB), there are 22 Oil Refineries in the country and they are required to comply with the environmental standards notified for the Petroleum Oil Refineries under the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 by the Government. The compliance to the prescribed norms by these Refineries is assessed by the CPCB, State Pollution Control Boards and Pollution Control Committees. During the last three years, the CPCB has inspected 11 refineries, out of which 6 refineries were found non-compliant with the prescribed norms. The CPCB has issued directions under Section 5 of the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 to these 6 Oil Refineries viz.

(i) Barauni Refineries, Bihar

(ii) Gujarat Refineries, Gujarat

(iii) Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited (HPCL), Vishakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh

(iv) Numaligarh Refineries, Assam

(v) Guwahati Refineries, Assam and

(vi) Bharat Oman Refineries Ltd. Further, subsequent to the incidents of crude oil and product leakage, CPCB has also issued directions under Section 5 of the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 to 2 more oil companies like Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited (BPCL), Chennai and Oil and Natural Gas Commission (ONGC), Nagapattinam.

(c) to (e) Many countries have taken suitable steps for control of pollution from refineries, which include volatile organic compounds absorbing system from effluent treatment system, sulphur recovery units, minimizing sludge generation, efficient catalytic cracker, oxides of nitrogen burners, hydrocarbon vapour recovery technology, leak detection and arrest system etc. In our country, the prescribed specifications for pollution control in refineries are on lines with the international practices adopted.