

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:664
ANSWERED ON:09.12.2013
POLLUTION BY POWER PLANTS
Verma Shri Sajjan Singh

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

- (a) whether the thermal power plants are polluting nearby lakes, streams, wells, rivers and other water bodies;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken by the Government to clean areas adjoining the thermal power plants;
- (c) whether the Government has received complaints in this regard; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof along with the action taken by the Government against polluting plants?

Answer

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

(a)&(b) As reported by the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB), the Thermal Power plants may cause air and water pollution besides problems related to solid waste (fly ash) management if proper measures are not taken. In order to minimise / control the pollution, the following steps have been taken:

- i. Developed standards for emission and effluent for control of air and water pollution.
- ii. For minimizing dust generation, power plants have been directed to use beneficiated coal (low ash coal).
- iii. In order to mitigate problems related to fly ash disposal such as land degradation, fugitive dust emission from ash ponds, fly ash utilization has been made mandatory since September 14, 1999.
- iv. Under Corporate Responsibility for Environment Protection, all coal based power plants have been asked to provide Ash Water Recirculation System which in turn will help in water conservation and pollution check in nearby water body.
- v. Emphasis is given to cleaner coal technology (like supercritical, Circulating Fluidized Bed Combustion) while granting environmental clearance to new coal based thermal power plants

(c)&(d) The complaints received in CPCB against the polluting plants are given at Annexure which have been forwarded to the concerned State Pollution Control Boards for investigation and appropriate action.