

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
ENVIRONMENT, FORESTS AND CLIMATE CHANGE  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:182

ANSWERED ON:24.02.2015

COMPACT FLUORESCENT LAMPS

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**Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT, FORESTS AND CLIMATE CHANGE be pleased to state:**

- (a) whether the Compact Fluorescent Lamps (CFLs) have excessive contents of mercury and if so, the details thereof;
- (b) whether the Government has issued guidelines for use and disposal of mercury in an environment friendly manner in CFL industry and if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government has developed any proper recycling method for the said lamps to check mercury pollution caused by mercury and if so, the details thereof; and
- (d) the other steps taken by the Government in this regard?

**Answer**

MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) FOR ENVIRONMENT, FORESTS AND CLIMATE CHANGE (SHRI PRAKASH JAVADEKAR)

(a) As per a study executed out by The Energy and Resources Institute (TERI), the level of mercury content in Compact Fluorescent Lamp (CFL) ranges from 3.5 mg to 6 mg per CFL. The Bureau of Indian Standards has finalized an amendment to IS: 15111 (Part 1): 2002 Indian Standard for Self Ballasted Lamps For General Lighting Services (Safety Requirements), in April 2014, in respect of maximum mercury content of rated wattage upto and including 26 Watts, as 5 mg per CFL.

(b) to (d) A Technical Committee, constituted by the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEF & CC) under the Chairmanship of the Chairman, Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB), had prepared a "Guidelines for Environmentally Sound Mercury Management in Fluorescent Lamp Sector". These guidelines prescribe the best practices at various levels, such as at manufacturer's level and include aspects relating to mercury consumption, process technology, raw mercury distillation, on-site storage, treatment, recycling, disposal of mercury bearing wastes and 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.

MoEF & CC and CPCB have written to all the State Governments and Union Territories to encourage establishment of recycling units so that the fused CFLs and Fluorescent Tube Lights (FTLs) are properly collected and the mercury is recovered and recycled scientifically and safely.