

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:6266  
ANSWERED ON:05.05.2015  
POLLUTION BY THERMAL PLANTS  
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**Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT, FORESTS AND CLIMATE CHANGE be pleased to state:**

- (a) whether the Government has conducted any assessment of the pollution caused by thermal plants around their sites;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) whether the Government has devised any action plan to address such environmental issues and if so, the details thereof?

**Answer**

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

(a)to(c) The Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) has not conducted any specific assessment on the pollution caused by the thermal plants around their sites. However, in order to assess compliance of emission and effluent limits, CPCB carried out inspections of thermal power plants under its Environmental Surveillance Squad (ESS). Based on the findings of inspections carried out under ESS by CPCB, directions under Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 have been issued to 14 power plants while under Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act 1981 and Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act 1974, directions were issued to concerned State Pollution Control Boards (SPCBs) for directing the 6 power plants to comply with environments standards. The details are given at Annexure. The Government has taken following actions for containment of pollution from power sector:

- (i) Stricter emission limit (particulate matter 50 mg/Nm<sup>3</sup> against the notified limit of 150 mg/Nm<sup>3</sup>) for new power plants to be located in critically polluted area, urban area and ecologically sensitive area.
- (ii) Imposing installation of Flue Gas Desulphurisation (FGD) system for control of SO<sub>2</sub> emission on case to case basis (5 plants viz: Dahanu, Reliance Power; Tata Power, Trombay; JSW, Ratnagir; Bongaigaon&Vindhyachal, NTPC &Udipi, Lanco Power) have been asked to provide FGD.
- (iii) Mandatory use of beneficiated coal in thermal power plants located 1000 km from coal mine area while plants located within 500-750 & 750 to 1000 km shall commence use of beneficiated coal w.e.f from January 2016 & 2015 respectively.
- (iv) Mandatory use of flyash so as to achieve 100% flyash utilisation within 5 years from November 03, 2009 by the existing plant and within 4 years from date of commissioning of plants in case of new plants.
- (v) Existing plants have been asked to conserve the water by adopting recycling of ash pond effluents.
- (vi) Power plants using fresh water have to install cooling towers (with higher Cycle of concentration) in place of once through cooling system.
- (vii) Cleaner power generation technologies like Circulating Fluidised Bed Combustion (CFBC), Super Critical etc. are being implemented while according environmental clearance which inturn will help in reduction in per unit of emission of particulate matter, SO<sub>2</sub>, NO<sub>x</sub>& CO<sub>2</sub>.