

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3986
ANSWERED ON:06.08.2014
MERCURY LEVELS IN CFL
Noor Smt. Mausam

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

- (a) whether the Compact Fluorescent Lamps (CFLs) contain high content of mercury;
- (b) if so, the details thereof along with the permitted level of mercury in CFL;
- (c) whether the Government has formulated any guidelines for environment friendly mercury management in CFL Sector;
- (d) if so, the details thereof;
- (e) whether the Government has any proposal for recycling of the said lamps properly to contain mercury pollution; and
- (f) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

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

(a) & (b). As per a study carried 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.

(c) to (f) The Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change had constituted a Task Force to evolve a policy on "Environmentally Sound Management of mercury in Fluorescent Lamps". A Technical Committee, constituted by this Task Force, had prepared "Guidelines for Environmentally Sound Mercury Management in Fluorescent Lamps 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.

Ministry of Environment and Forests (MoEF) and Central Pollution Control Board (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.