

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:778
ANSWERED ON:16.07.2014
POLLUTION FROM THERMAL PLANTS
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Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT, FORESTS AND CLIMATE CHANGE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether coal based thermal plants are polluting lakes, wells, rivers and other water bodies around their sites;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the number of complaints received by the Government in this regard, Plant-wise including the action taken by the Government thereon;
- (c) whether the Government proposes to amend the pollution norms for the thermal power plants situated across the country;
- (d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor; and
- (e) the steps taken by the Government to address the issues?

Answer

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

(a)&(b) Coal based thermal power plants may pollute nearby water bodies like rivers, reservoirs etc. if adequate settling is not provided for treatment of effluent from ash pond. The details of power plants which do not comply with ash pond effluent limit are given at Annexure-I and the details of the complaints received against the power plants causing water pollution are given at Annexure-II alongwith the action taken.

(c)&(d) There is no proposal as of now to revise / amend the existing norms for thermal power plants for air and water pollution.

(e) Following steps have taken to control pollution from thermal power plants:

- i. Stricter emission limit has been prescribed (particulate matter 50 mg/Nm³ against the notified limit of 150 mg/Nm³) for new power plants to be located in critically polluted areas, urban areas and ecologically sensitive areas.
- ii. Imposing installation of Flue Gas Desulphurisation system for control of SO₂ emission.
- iii. Mandatory use of beneficiated coal in thermal power plants located beyond 1000 km from pit-head with immediate effect while plants located within 500-749 and 750-1000 km shall commence use of beneficiated coal w.e.f. January, 2016 and 2015 respectively.
- iv. Mandatory use of flyash so as to achieve 100 % flyash utilisation within 5 years from November 3, 2009 by the existing plants and within 4 years from date of commissioning of plants in case of new plants.
- v. Industries falling in 17 Category of polluting industries have been directed to install real time monitoring system for monitoring their effluent and emissions.
- vi. Existing plants have been asked to conserve water by adopting recycling of ash pond effluents.
- vii. Power plants using fresh water have to install cooling towers (with higher cycle of concentration) in place of once through cooling system.
- viii. Cleaner power generation technologies like Circulating Fluidised Bed Combustion, Super Critical etc. are being implemented while according environmental clearance which in turn will help in reduction in per unit of emission of particulate matter, SO₂, NO_x and CO₂.