

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1509
TO BE ANSWERED ON 01.01.2018

Air pollution due to petcoke exported from the US

1509. SHRI SANJAY RAUT:

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

- (a) whether it is a fact that the US oil refineries are exporting vast quantities of fuel waste product, petroleum coke which could not be sold in their country to India;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and Government's response thereto;
- (c) whether the petcoke burnt in countless factories and plants is contributing to polluted air in the country;
- (d) if so, Government's reaction thereto; and
- (e) the details of steps taken or proposed to be taken by Government for the environment protection and public health by avoiding such hazardous products in the country?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

(DR. MAHESH SHARMA)

(a) & (b) Import of petroleum coke in the country is not prohibited. According to Directorate General of Foreign Trade, Ministry of Commerce and Industry, petroleum coke imported in the country during 2015-16 and 2016-17 are of the value of 1440.85 US\$ Million and 1738.51 US\$ Million respectively which include imports from US also.

(c) & (d) Burning of petcoke in factories and plants without pollution control devices may lead to high levels of emissions of Sulphur Dioxide (SO₂) contributing to air pollution. Government has already laid down emission limits for SO₂ and Nitrogen Oxides (NO_x) for several industrial sectors viz. thermal power, Dye Intermediate; Cement; Coke oven (covered under Iron & Steel sector); Copper, Lead & Zinc smelter; Sulphuric Acid; Iron & Steel; Petrochemical; and Pesticides (Incineration plant) etc. Draft standards with respect to SO₂ and NO_x have also been issued for 16 boiler based industries. Compliance of these standards would improve environmental condition.

(e) Government has taken a number of steps to deal with the challenges of environmental pollution in a holistic manner. The Government has notified 115 emission / effluent standards for 104 different sectors of industries besides 32 general standards for ambient air, noise and water discharge. Use of petcoke is currently banned in the states of Haryana, Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh.
