GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 3238.
TO BE ANSWERED ON 31.03.2022

Flue Gas Desulphurisation in thermal power plants

3238. SMT. VANDANA CHAVAN:

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

(a) whether it is a fact that the deadline to install Flue Gas Desulphurization (FGD) units in thermal power plants that cut emissions of Sulphur Dioxides was postponed from 2017 to 2022, if so, the reasons for extension of the deadline;
(b) the number and details of State-run thermal power plants that have complied with setting up of the FGD units so far; and
(c) whether the new rules and penalties pertaining to the FGD units are in force, and if not, the reasons therefor, and a deadline by which the rules will be enforced?

ANSWER

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

(SHRI ASHWINI KUMAR CHOUBEY)

(a) to (c)
The Ministry notified emission norms on 07.12.2015 for Sulphur dioxide (SO2) for coal/lignite based Thermal Power Plants (TPPs), which were to be implemented within two years from the notification i.e. 07.12.2017. Subsequently, in December 2017, after taking into consideration the following factors, the timeline for implementation of new emission norms was extended:

i. Technical challenges such as supply and demand assessment done by Central Electricity Authority;
ii. The phasing plan for installation of FGD along with timelines was prepared and submitted before Hon'ble Supreme Court, taking into account the supply and demand of power across the country;
iii. Market supply condition of technology and service providers;

The implementation of revised emission norms was affected due to constraint arising from COVID-19 pandemic and associated lock downs. The related impacts on various activities included impact on supply chain of instruments and equipment required for upgradation of pollution control measures and physical work at ground. Accordingly, Ministry vide its notification dated 31.03.2021 has extended the timeline for implementation of the emission norms for SO_2 notified on 07.12.2015 forTPPs. The rationale of raised timelines was based on environment considerations.

Twenty units run by Central or Private entities have installed wet Flue Gas Desulphurisation (FGD) technology (16) and Dry Sorbent Injection (DSI) technology (4) for de-sulphurization of flue gas from Thermal Power Plants. However, no State run plant have installed FGD units.

The notification dated 31.03.2021 and therein prescribed penalties pertaining to non-compliance of the provision of the notification is in force.

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