

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.1344
TO BE ANSWERED ON 22.12.2017

Installation of FGD Technology

1344. SHRI KESINENI NANI:
KUMARI SHOBHA KARANDLAJE:
SHRI PRATHAP SIMHA:

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

- (a) whether his Ministry has notified the Environment (Protection) Amendment Rules, 2015 for thermal power plants in 2015 for installation of flue-gas desulfurization of FGD technology and if so, the details of the new emission standards notified in this regard;
- (b) whether the Central Electricity Authority has given more than three hundred thermal power plants two-to five-year reprieve from adhering to the strict air pollution standards that come into force this year;
- (c) if so, the reasons for allowing to delay implementation of an existing environmental regulation;
- (d) the steps being taken by his Ministry to adhere to the strict air pollution standards by thermal power industry; and
- (e) whether about forty five percent of the sulphur dioxide pollution from the industrial sector comes from thermal power plants and if so, the details thereof and the corrective measures taken by the Government in this regard?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE
(DR. MAHESH SHARMA)

(a) Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEF&CC) notified new emission standards for Thermal Power Plants (TPPs) *vide* S.O.3305 (E) dated 07/12/2015 with respect to Sulphur dioxide (SO₂), Oxides of Nitrogen (NO_x), and Particulate Matter (PM) etc. The above Notification does not specify any specific technology for control of these gases including for SO₂ for which Flue Gas Desulphurisation (FGD) may be required.

(b) and (c) Compliance with laid down standards is reviewed from time to time and in cases of violation, necessary corrective steps are taken. In case of Thermal Power Plants the notification has not been amended with respect to PM, SO₂ and NO_x. As per available data, 60% of identified 196 GW capacity is in compliance with respect to PM. For rest of the plants which are not in compliance with laid down norms, specific statutory directions have been issued for compliance in a time-bound manner. The timelines with respect to various plants have been laid down taking into account proximity to habitations, supply side

constraints, need to provide access to electricity to around 300 million people who still do not have access to it, combat indoor air pollution and to maintain the overall stability of power supply in the country. It merits mention here that in general the ambient concentration of SO₂, NO_x are below permissible limits except few locations.

(d) and (e) Contribution of Thermal Power Plants to SO₂ concentrations in the ambient air varies and is not uniform across the cities and depends upon a number of other factors. However, thermal power plants are a significant contributor to Sulphur dioxide from industrial sector. Government has taken a number of measures in this regard including improvement in fuel quality and revision of environmental standards with respect to different industrial sectors.
