

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.202
TO BE ANSWERED ON 02.02.2018

Air Pollution Norms by Thermal Power Plants

202. SHRI DINESH TRIVEDI:

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

- (a) whether sixteen new thermal power plants installed post January 2017 have failed to adhere to New Air Pollution norms notified in December 2015;
- (b) if so, whether the Government has taken any action against these power plants that have failed to adhere to new rules, if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor;
- (c) the rationale/reasons behind diluting water per mega-watt hour limit from 2.5 cubic metre to 3 cubic metre for thermal power plants in the country; and
- (d) the reaction of the Government on additional costs required to install better technology in thermal power plants to meet new air pollution rules versus the benefits from adhering to aforementioned rules?

ANSWER

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

(a) & (b) 19 units of 16 Thermal Power Plants (TPPs) have been commissioned after January 2017. Out of 19 units, 2 units have installed Flue Gas Desulphurisation (FGD) / Circulating Fluidized Bed Combustion (CFBC) to comply with Sulphur dioxide (SO₂) emission norms. For remaining 17 units, time lines have been stipulated by Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change based on commitment received from Ministry of Power to comply with new emission norms with respect to Particulate Matter (PM), SO₂ and Oxides of Nitrogen (NO_x). CPCB has issued directions under Section 5 of Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 to all these units to comply with new emission norms as per committed time lines.

(c) Considering Ministry of Power's proposal for additional water requirement for FGD to control SO₂ emission limit for TPPs, the Ministry has issued draft notification vide S.O.3337 (E), dated 16/10/2017 revising water consumption limit from 2.5 M³/MW to 3.0 M³/MW for the TTPs commissioned after January 2017.

(d) In order to control emissions of PM, SO₂ and NO_x emission, TPPs are required to install pollution mitigation equipments such as electrostatic precipitator, FGD and selective catalytic reduction respectively. These pollution mitigation equipments in TPPs are required to reduce emission of PM₁₀, SO₂ and NO_x, which in turn will help in improvement in Ambient Air Quality, which is a major concern.
