

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

LOKSABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION No. 2070
TO BE ANSWERED ON 13.03.2023

Pollution due to NTPC Plants

2070. SHRI AJAY KUMAR MANDAL:
MS.LOCKET CHATTERJEE:
SHRI SUNIL KUMAR PINTU:

Will the MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE be pleased to state:

- a) whether the cities of West Bengal and Bihar are facing the problem of increasing level of pollution, if so, the city-wise details thereof;
- b) the steps taken by the Government to address the said problem in these cities along with the success achieved as a result thereof;
- c) whether pollution is also increasing due to NTPC plants set up in the states of West Bengal and Bihar, if so, the guidelines/rules issued to these plants to control pollution; and
- d) whether there is any monitoring mechanism to ensure compliance of the said rules if so, the plant-wise details thereof, and if not, the reasons therefor?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE |IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE
(SHRI ASHWINI KUMAR CHOUBEY)

(a), (b), (c) &(d):National Clean Air Programme (NCAP) has been launched by MoEFCC which is a long-term, time-bound, national level strategy for prevention, control and abatement of air pollution in 131 cities. It envisages to reduce air pollution upto 40% or achieve ambient air quality standard in terms of Particulate Matter (PM10) concentrations by 2025-26 over the baseline of 2019-20.

Ambient air quality data of 9 cities of Bihar and West Bengal for Particulate Matter10 (PM10)concentrations is enclosed at **Annexure-I**. 5 cities of Bihar and West Bengal have shown improvement air quality in FY 2021-22 with respect to the baseline of 2017.

Amount of Rs.316.73 crore and Rs.777.02 crore have been released to the cities in Bihar and West Bengal since 2019-20 till 2022-23 (5th March) for implementation of city action plans for taking air quality improvement measures as part of City Action Plans.

Emission and discharge norms for TPPs have been notified under Environment (Protection) Rules, 1986 and subsequent amendments. Six coal based Thermal Power Plants (TPPs) in Bihar and one in West Bengal operated by NTPC have been provided timelines to meet emission norms for the parameters Particulate Matter (PM), Oxides of Nitrogen (NOx) and Sulphur Dioxide (SO₂) as given in the **Annexure-II**. State Pollution Control Boards monitor the compliance of environmental standards of TPPs through Consent mechanism. Continuous Emission Monitoring Systems (CEMS) have been installed in these TPPs for 24×7 monitoring and online reporting of environmental parameters. Physical inspections of industries are carried out periodically to check the status of environmental compliance.

Annexure-I

Ambient Air Quality Data of cities of Bihar & West Bengal for PM10 concentrations

State	City	PM ₁₀ Annual Average Concentration ($\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$)	
		2017-18	2021-22
Bihar	Gaya	79	97
	Muzaffarpur	147	153
	Patna	172	145
West Bengal	Asansol U.A.	147	112
	Kolkata U.A.	147	105
	Barrackpore	86	85
	Howrah	139	125
	Durgapur	150	168
	Haldia	92	94

Annexure-II**Details of NTPC Plants in Bihar and West Bengal and their timelines to meet the new emission norms**

Sl. No.	Thermal Power Plant	State	Capacity (MW)	Category	Timelines to meet new emission norms	
					PM and NO _x	SO ₂
1.	Muzaffarpur TPS, KBUNL	Bihar	390	B	31.12.2023	31.12.2025
2.	Kahalgaon STPS	Bihar	2340	C	31.12.2024	31.12.2026
3.	Barh STPS	Bihar	1980	C	31.12.2024	31.12.2026
4.	Nabi Nagar TPP, BRBCL	Bihar	1000	C	31.12.2024	31.12.2026
5.	New Nabi Nagar TPP, NPGCL	Bihar	1320	C	31.12.2024	31.12.2026
6.	Barauni TPS	Bihar	710	C	31.12.2024	31.12.2026
7.	Farakka STPS	West Bengal	2100	C	31.12.2024	31.12.2026