

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF POWER
LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.1848
ANSWERED ON 14.12.2023**

INSTALLATION OF FLUE GAS DESULFURIZATION UNITS

1848. SHRI GAURAV GOGOI:

**Will the Minister of POWER
be pleased to state:**

- (a) whether the Government is aware that none of the States in the eastern region, including Bihar, West Bengal, Odisha, Assam and Jharkhand, has any thermal power plants currently complying with the emission norms;**
- (b) if so, the details of the mechanism adopted by the Government to ensure compliance with installing Flue Gas Desulfurization (FGD) units to control SO₂ emissions by thermal power plants in the said region;**
- (c) whether the Government is also aware that there is no information available about on-ground inspections conducted by State-level regulatory bodies for the installation of FGDs in thermal power plants; and**
- (d) if so, the details of on-ground inspections conducted by State-level regulatory bodies for the installation of FGDs in thermal power plants along with the results of these inspections, State/UT-wise?**

A N S W E R

THE MINISTER OF POWER AND NEW & RENEWABLE ENERGY

(SHRI R.K. SINGH)

(a) to (d): All Thermal Power Plants are required to comply with the emission norms as notified by the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEF&CC) and directions given by Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) from time to time.

Thermal Power Plants located in the States of the eastern region, including Bihar, West Bengal, Odisha, Assam and Jharkhand, are in the various stages of up-gradation and installation of emission control equipments as per the timelines specified vide MoEF&CC Notification dated 05.09.2022.

For compliance to Sulphur dioxide (SO₂) emission norms, Thermal Power Plants are installing Flue Gas De-sulphurisation (FGD) equipment, for which the timelines for compliance (for non-retiring units) as specified by MoEF&CC are as follows:

Sl. No.	Category	Location/Area	Timelines
1	Category A	Within 10 km radius of National Capital Region (NCR) or cities having million plus population (as per 2011 census of India)	Upto 31 st December 2024
2	Category B	Within 10 km radius of Critically Polluted Areas or Non-attainment cities (as defined by CPCB)	Upto 31 st December 2025
3	Category C	Other than those included in category A and B	Upto 31 st December 2026

For non-compliance beyond the specified timelines, MoEF&CC has prescribed following environment compensation on the non-retiring thermal power plants:

Non-Compliant operation beyond the Timeline	Environmental Compensation (Rs. per unit electricity generated)
0-180 days	0.20
181-365 days	0.30
366 days and beyond	0.40

The compliance of emission norms is being monitored by Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) and the concerned State Pollution Control Boards (SPCBs) in the States. Central Electricity Authority (CEA) assists CPCB in monitoring the progress of installation of FGD by the TPPs. The monitoring is done for all stages of FGD installation which includes; Feasibility Study Started, Feasibility Study Completed, Tender Specifications Made, NIT Issued, Bids Awarded and FGD Commissioned. The time limit for Thermal Power Plants to comply with SO₂ emission parameters has not lapsed.
