

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF POWER**

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.1725
ANSWERED ON 05.12.2024**

FLUE GAS DESULFURIZATION SYSTEM

1725. SHRI VISHNU DATT SHARMA:

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

- (a) whether the Government is aware of the fact that as per study of the Centre for Research on Energy and Clean Air (CREA), India is largest emitter of sulphur dioxide and India's thermal power plants emit 240 times more sulphur dioxide than paddy stubble burning and if so, the steps taken/being taken by the Government in this regard;
- (b) whether the Government has conducted any survey to find out the impact of these thermal power plants on public health due to poor air quality and thereby loss of GDP and if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether Flue Gas Desulfurization (FGD) systems have been operative only in 8 percent of total number of thermal power plants in the country; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof along with the efforts being made to address this issue and if not, the reasons therefor?

A N S W E R

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER

(SHRI SHRIPAD NAIK)

(a) to (d): All Thermal Power Plants (TPPs) 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. MoEF&CC notification dated 07.12.2015, 31.03.2021 and 05.09.2022 have stipulated stack emission norms [including for Sulfur Di-oxide (SO₂)] and timelines for compliance in respect of coal based TPPs, categorized as Category-A, B and C.

In order to meet the SO₂ emission norms, Flue Gas Desulphurization (FGD) systems are being installed in coal based TPPs. Total 537 units (2,04,160 MW) have been identified for installation of FGDs in TPPs. Out of these, FGD has been installed in 44 units (22,590 MW), contracts awarded/under implementation in 233 units (1,02,040 MW), 138 units (43,987 MW) are under various stages of tendering process and 122 units (35,543 MW) are under pre-tendering process.
