

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

**RAJYA SABHA**  
**STARRED QUESTION NO. 151**  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 12.3.2015

**Pollution from Thermal Plants**

\*151. SHRI RITABRATA BANERJEE:

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

- (a) whether it is a fact that the thermal plants are the worst polluters in the world, if so, the details thereof ; and
- (b) the measures taken by Government to curb the pollution caused by them?

**ANSWER**

MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) FOR ENVIRONMENT, FOREST  
AND CLIMATE CHANGE  
(SHRI PRAKASH JAVADEKAR)

(a) & (b) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

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**STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARAS (A) & (B) OF RAJYA SABHA  
STARRED QUESTION NO. 151 DUE FOR REPLY ON 12.3.2015 REGARDING  
“POLLUTION FROM THERMAL PLANTS” BY SHRI RITABRATA BANERJEE:**

(a) The coal based Thermal Power Plants have been categorized as one of the 17 category of Highly Polluting industries.

(b) The details of actions taken for control of pollution from Thermal Power Plants are given as under;

- (i) Environmental Standards (emission and effluent) have been notified under the Environment (Protection) Rules, 1986, which are implemented by concerned State Pollution Control Boards (SPCBs)/Pollution Control Committees (PCCs) through consent management;
- (ii) Stack emission norm of 50 miligram (mg)/Normal cubic metre (Nm<sup>3</sup>) is prescribed through environmental clearance for new plants located in urban areas, critically Polluted areas and ecological sensitive areas;
- (iii) A few coal based thermal power plants have installed Flue Gas Desulphurization (FGD) system to control emission of sulphur dioxide;
- (iv) A duty has been cast upon the suppliers/coal companies to supply coal having ash content equal to or less than 34 % to Coal Based Thermal Power Plants (CBTPP), if a plant is located beyond 750 kilo metre. CBTPP is duty bond to use beneficiated coal/coal having ash content less than 34 % ;
- (v) The Central Pollution Control Board is revisiting the environmental standards (emission and effluent) for thermal power plants, on priority. It is expected that the new standards to be far stringent and would help in drastically recovering emission and effluent pollution level from Thermal Power Plant;
- (vi) Existing plants have been asked to conserve water by adopting recycling of ash pond effluents;
- (vii) Power Plants using fresh water have to install cooling towers (with higher Cycle of Concentration (COC)) in place of once through cooling system. New power plants have been asked to maintain COC of 8 instead of 2-3;
- (viii) Cleaner power generation technology i.e Super Critical Technology for capacity more than 600 MW is implemented while according environmental clearance which in turn helps reducing of emissions of particulate matter, SO<sub>2</sub>, Nitrogen Oxides (NO<sub>x</sub>) and Carbon Dioxide.

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