

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1784.
TO BE ANSWERED ON 17.03.2022

Installation of FGD units in thermal power plants

1784. SHRI DEREK O' BRIEN:

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

- (a) whether it is a fact that the deadline to install Flue Gas Desulphurization (FGD) units in thermal power plants that cut emissions of Sulphur Dioxides was postponed from 2017 to 2022, if so, the reasons for extension of the deadline;
- (b) the number and details of State-run thermal power plants that have complied with setting up of FGD units so far; and
- (c) whether the task force to segregate plants in three categories on the basis of their location to comply with the emission norms has been constituted by the Central Pollution Control Board, if not, the reasons therefor?

ANSWER

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

- (a) The Ministry notified emission norms on 07.12.2015 for Sulphurdioxide (SO₂) for coal/lignite based Thermal Power Plants (TPPs), which were to be implemented within two years from the notification i.e. 07.12.2017. Subsequently, in December 2017, after taking into consideration the following factors, the timeline for implementation of new emission norms was extended on a case to case basis from year 2018 to 2022:
 - i. Technical challenges such as supply and demand assessment done by Central Electricity Authority;
 - ii. The phasing plan for installation of FGD along with timelines was prepared and submitted before Hon'ble Supreme Court, taking into account the supply and demand of power across the country;
 - iii. Market supply condition of technology and service providers;

The implementation of revised emission norms was affected due to constraint arising from COVID-19 pandemic and associated lock downs. The related impacts on various activities included impact on supply chain of instruments and equipment required for upgradation of pollution control measures and physical work at ground. Accordingly, Ministry vide its notification dated 31.03.2021 has extended the timeline for implementation of the emission norms for SO₂ notified on 07.12.2015 for TPPs. The rationale of raised timelines was based on environment considerations.

- (b) Twenty Units run by Central or Private entities have installed wet Flue Gas Desulphurisation (FGD) technology (16) and Dry Sorbent Injection (DSI) technology

(4) for de-sulphurization of flue gas from Thermal Power Plants. However, no State run plant have installed FGD units.

- (c) In compliance to the provision of Ministry's notification dated 31.03.2021 the task force was constituted on 08.04.2021 under the Chairmanship of Member Secretary, Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB).
