

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRIMATI JAYANTHI NATARAJAN): (a) and (b) The Ministry of Mines vide their Notification No. 95 (E) Dated 03-02-2000 has notified “ordinary earth” as minor mineral under the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act, 1957.

(b) to (f) The Hon’ble Supreme Court in SLP Nos. 19628-19629 of 2009 titled “Deepak Kumar etc. Vs. State of Haryana and Ors etc.”, vide order dated 27.02.2012 ordered that even the mine leases for minor mineral of less than 5 ha area will need prior environment clearance from the Ministry of Environment and Forests. The powers to grant environment clearance for mining lease areas for minor mineral of less than 5 ha have been delegated by this Ministry to the concerned State Environment Impact Assessment Authority (SEIAA).

Pollution by thermal power plants

1892. SHRI BAISHNAB PARIDA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that thermal power plants in the country are polluting lakes, streams, wells, rivers and water bodies all around their sites, thus affecting the lives of the habitants surrounding those areas;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government has ever received complaints in this regard;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the action plan of Government to address such environmental issues that impact the health of the people around these plants?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRIMATI JAYANTHI NATARAJAN): (a) to (e) During 2010-2012, the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB), under its Environment Surveillance Squad Programme, inspected Thermal Power Plants and found eight of them violating the effluent discharge limits. Directions were issued by CPCB under Section 5 of the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 to the eight power plants to ensure compliance of effluent discharge limits in a time bound manner. The details of the Power Plants are given in Statement (*See below*). To address the environmental issues that impact the health of the people around these plants, the Government has revised the national ambient air quality standards in 2009.

Statement

Power plants not complying with effluent discharge limits as per inspection conducted by CPCB under Environment Surveillance Squad (ESS) Programme during 2010-12

Sl.No.	Name of the Power plant
1.	Parichha Thermal Power Station, UPRVUNL, UP
2.	Obra, Uttar Pradesh Vidyut Utpadan Nigam Ltd, (UPRVUNL) UP
3.	Amarkantak Thermal power Station, (ATPS) Lanco Power,"Chhattisgarh
4.	Muzaffarpur Thermal Power station, KantiBijili Utapadan Nigam Ltd., Bihar
5.	Kolaghat Thermal Power Station, West Bengal Power Development Corporation Ltd., WB
6.	Tenughat Thermal Power Plant, TVUNL, Jharkhand
7.	Chandrapura Thermal Power Plant, DVC, Jharkhand
8.	Talcher Thermal Power Plant, NTPC, Angul, Odisha

Cop-11 in Hyderabad

1893. SHRIMATI KANIMOZHI: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has adopted any strategies aimed at protecting country's biodiversity at the eleventh meeting of the Conference of Parties (CoP-11) held in Hyderabad;

(b) if so the details thereof:

(c) whether any areas have been earmarked as protected ecosystems across the country; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRIMATI JAYANTHI NATARAJAN): (a) and (b) The eleventh Conference of Parties (CoP-11) to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) held