

Safe disposal of mercury bearing waste

508. SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT, FORESTS AND CLIMATE CHANGE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has formulated any guidelines for safe disposal of mercury bearing waste in Compact Florescent Lights (CFL) in accordance with international standards;

(b) if so, the details thereof, and if not, the reasons therefor;

(c) the steps taken by Government to check unregulated and unrestricted disposal of CFL leading to contamination of environment and human health; and

(d) the further steps taken by Government to ensure safe disposal of mercury bearing waste in CFL in accordance with the concept of the extended producers responsibility?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FORESTS AND CLIMATE CHANGE (SHRI PRAKASH JAVADEKAR): (a) to (d) No guideline has been framed for disposal of mercury bearing waste in Compact Fluorescent Lamp (CFL) in accordance with international standard has been issued. However, Central Pollution Control Board has published "Guidelines for Environmentally Sound Mercury Management in Fluorescent Lamp Sector" in 2008, wherein the role and responsibilities of the stakeholders are specified for effective management of mercury in Fluorescent Lamp.

Measures taken to combat air pollution

509. SHRI TIRUCHI SIVA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT, FORESTS AND CLIMATE CHANGE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there have been measures taken to combat air pollution by switching over to CNG/LPG as automotive fuel in Kolkata, Kanpur, Pune, Ahmedabad and other major cities of India, if not, the reasons therefor;

(b) if so, the details regarding the performance of these schemes in these cities; and

(c) whether the status of ambient air in these cities post implementation of schemes show improvement?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FORESTS AND CLIMATE CHANGE (SHRI PRAKASH JAVADEKAR): (a) to (c) The Hon'ble Supreme Court of India *via* its order dated May 9, 2002 has ordered to the preparation of a scheme for compulsory switch over to CNG/LPG as automotive fuel in the cities which are equally or more polluted than Delhi. The 4 cities that have been identified as equally or more polluted than Delhi were Kolkata, Kanpur, Pune and Ahmedabad. The State Governments of these cities have prepared schemes for switching over to CNG/LPG as automotive fuel.

With regard to monitoring of air quality at Kolkata, Kanpur, Pune, Ahmedabad, the air quality data for the year 2010 to 2012 is given in Statement (*See below*). Analysis of data during 2010-2012 reveals that for Sulphur Dioxide (SO₂) at all locations were within the National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS) for the three consecutive years. Regarding Nitrogen Dioxide (NO₂), Kolkata exceeds the NAAQS norms in three consecutive years and for Particulate Matter size equal to or less than 10 micron (PM₁₀) all the 4 cities exceeded the NAAQS of 60 ug/m₃ in three consecutive years.

Statement

*Air quality status of 46 million plus cities for 2010, 2011-2012
(Annual average ug/m³)*

City	State	2010			2011			2012		
		SO ₂	NO ₂	PM ₁₀	SO ₂	NO ₂	PM ₁₀	SO ₂	NO ₂	PM ₁₀
Ahmedabad	Gujarat	15	21	95	13	25	79	12	24	83
Kanpur	Uttar Pradesh	7	34	203	8	33	184	8	34	215
Kolkata	West Bengal	11	62	99	13	66	115	12	70	135
Pune	Maharashtra	29	39	82	32	58	113	22	44	93

Time-frame for online environmental clearances

510. SHRI RAJEEV SHUKLA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT, FORESTS AND CLIMATE CHANGE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government is drafting any clear rules for faster green approvals, if so, the details thereof;
- (b) whether there would be a time-frame for online clearances; and
- (c) what would be Government's strategy to simplify the whole process in future, the details thereof?