

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF POWER

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.1909
ANSWERED ON 17.03.2025

POLLUTION FROM COAL-FIRED POWER PLANTS

1909 SHRI SANJAY RAUT:

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

- (a) measures Government is taking to protect children and aged persons from harmful effects of Sulfur Dioxide (SO₂) and particulate matter (PM_{2.5}) emissions from coal-fired power plants in Maharashtra;
- (b) whether Government has conducted any health impact studies on residents, particularly children, living near thermal power plants like Parli, Solapur and Chandrapur Super Thermal Power Station (CSTPS);
- (c) whether there has been an increase in respiratory diseases, including asthma and lung infections, among children due to pollution from power plants, details thereof; and
- (d) if so, Government's reaction thereto and steps taken or proposed to be taken to reduce pollution?

A N S W E R

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER

(SHRI SHRIPAD NAIK)

(a): 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 vide Notification dated 07.12.2015, 31.03.2021, 05.09.2022 and 30.12.2024 have stipulated stack emission standards [including Sulfur Dioxide (SO₂) and Particulate Matter (PM)] and timelines for compliance in respect of Coal / Lignite based TPPs, categorized as Category-A, B and C.

The timelines for compliance to SO₂ emissions and other than SO₂ emissions (PM, NO_x etc.) parameters as specified by MoEF&CC is given below:

Category	Location/Area	Timelines for compliance for non-retiring unit		Last date for exemption from compliance, for retiring units	
		Parameters other than SO ₂	SO ₂ emissions	Parameters other than SO ₂	SO ₂ emissions
A	Within 10 Km radius of National Capital Region (NCR) or cities having million plus population	31.12.2022	31.12.2027	31.12.2022	31.12.2030

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B	Within 10 Km radius of Critically Polluted Areas or Non-attainment Cities	31.12.2023	31.12.2028	31.12.2025	
C	Other than those included in Category A and B	31.12.2024	31.12.2029		

The installation/upgradation of pollution-control technology in TPPs (including Maharashtra) is proceeding in a phased manner, according to plant category, with adherence to the timelines specified by MoEF&CC.

To monitor ambient air quality, Continuous Ambient Air Quality Monitoring Systems (CAAQMS) stations are installed and online ambient air quality data of this system is connected to Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB)/Maharashtra Pollution Control Board (MPCB) server. SO₂ and PM 2.5 values in ambient air, within the vicinity of Parli, Sholapur & Chandrapur Thermal Power Station, are found within limits as per CPCB/MPCB norms.

(b) to (d) : No such study has been conducted by the Government of India to study the health impact on residents living near TPPs like Parli, Sholapur and Chandrapur Super Thermal Power Station (CSTPS) in Maharashtra. However, the Health surveys carried out by TPPs/District Health Officer/Medical Superintendent concerned on residents living near these Thermal Power Plants indicate no negative health effects in the areas surrounding TPPs.

Various measures taken by Government to reduce pollution from TPPs, inter-alia, includes Installation of Flue Gas Desulphurisation(FGDs) system for meeting SO₂ emission norms, Electrostatic Precipitator (ESP) for meeting PM emission norms, Combustion Modification for meeting NO_x emission norms; Installation of efficient Ultra Supercritical/Supercritical units; Biomass co-firing; Retiring of inefficient and old thermal power plants; Installation of Dust suppression system, fogger system, water sprinklers, tree plantation etc.
