

COMPACT FLUORESCENT LAMP

MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FORESTS AND CLIMATE CHANGE

SAFE DISPOSAL OF CFLS

05th August 2015

LSQ 637

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

- (a) whether as per a study, it is estimated that 14.93 million Compact Fluorescent Lamps (CFL) which release approximately 74.65 Kg. of mercury were disposed of unsafely and if so, the details thereof and the reaction of the Government thereto;
- (b) whether there is no binding regulations for safe disposal CFL in the country and the Central Pollution Control Board guidelines drafted in 2008 for this purpose are being flouted and if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefore;
- (c) whether many countries have implemented the Extended Producers Responsibility (EPR) policy for CFL where the manufactures take care of disposal and if so, the details thereof;
- (d) whether the committee appointed by the Government has also recommended for implementing EPR in India and if so, the reaction of the Government thereto; and
- (e) the further steps being taken by the Government to ensure safe disposal of CFLs and contain the hazards caused by mercury in the country ?

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

(a) Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate change is not aware of any such study.

(b) to (e) The issue of mercury releases from Compact Fluorescent Lamps (CFLs) is a concern for the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change. The Ministry had constituted a Task Force to evolve a policy on `Environmentally Sound Management of mercury in Fluorescent Lamps`, which adopted the `Guidelines for Environmentally Sound Mercury Management in Fluorescent Lamps Sector` prepared by a Technical Committee. The major recommendations of the Task Force include an independent notification under Environment (Protection) Act to manage the CFL waste which should inter alia include extended producers` responsibility. Process residues and waste from electronic industry; and mercury and mercury compounds are covered for regulation purpose under Schedule I and II, respectively of Hazardous Waste (Management, Handling and Trans boundary Movement) Rules, 2008 CFL with mercury content of more than 5 mg and regulated under Rule 13 of e - waste (Management & Handling) Rules, 2011. The Bureau of Indian Standards has finalized the Standard for CFL in April,

2014 , wherein mercury content of individual lamp has been prescribed to be limited to 5 mg per CFL. European countries follow the policy of Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) for dealing with waste electrical and electronic equipment, as per the WEEE Directive 2002/95/EC.

MERCURY LEVELS IN CFL

06th August 2014

LSQ 3986

MAUSAM NOOR

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

- (a) whether the Compact Fluorescent Lamps (CFLs) contain high content of mercury;
- (b) if so, the details thereof along with the permitted level of mercury in CFL;
- (c) whether the Government has formulated any guidelines for environment friendly mercury management in CFL Sector;
- (d) if so, the details thereof;
- (e) whether the Government has any proposal for recycling of the said lamps properly to contain mercury pollution; and
- (f) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken by the Government in this regard?

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

(a) & (b). As per a study carried out by The Energy and Resources Institute (TERI), the level of mercury content in Compact Fluorescent Lamp (CFL) ranges from 3.5 mg to 6 mg per CFL. The Bureau of Indian Standards has finalized an amendment to IS: 15111 (Part 1): 2002 Indian Standard for Self Ballasted Lamps For General Lighting Services (Safety Requirements), in April, 2014, in respect of maximum mercury content of rated wattage up to and including 26 Watts, as 5 mg per CFL.

(c) to (f) The Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change had constituted a Task Force to evolve a policy on “Environmentally Sound Management of mercury in Fluorescent Lamps”. A Technical Committee, constituted by this Task Force, had prepared “Guidelines for Environmentally Sound Mercury Management in Fluorescent Lamps Sector”. These guidelines prescribe the best practices at various levels, such as at manufacturer’s level and include aspects relating to mercury consumption, process technology, raw mercury distillation, on-site storage, treatment, recycling, disposal of mercury bearing wastes and mercury spill management. The best practices at consumer’s level include handling of used/broken lamps, consumer awareness pertaining to collection, transport, treatment and disposal of used fluorescent lamps.

Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change (MoEF & CC) and Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) have written to all the State Governments and Union Territories to encourage

establishment of recycling units so that the fused CFLs and Fluorescent Tube Lights (FTLs) are properly collected and the mercury is recovered and recycled scientifically and safely.