

Vishal Muttemwar

General Secretary.
Chairman, Social Media Department

Maharashtra Pradesh Congress Committee



Date:-27/11/2023

To,

Mr.Devendra Fadnavis,

Energy Minister of Maharashtra.

Subject - Urgent study on the impact of 'Coal-Based Thermal Power Plants' on air quality in Nagpur

A recent study conducted by the Centre for Science and Environment (CSE) has shed light on the alarming role of coal-based thermal power plants in exacerbating air pollution in the Delhi-NCR region. Of particular concern is the revelation, according to CSE's analysis, that out of the 11 thermal power plants in the region, only two, located in the National Capital Region (NCR), have implemented sulfur dioxide control measures.

Ironically, while Nagpur is in the midst of preparations for a thermal expansion project, existing power plants in the city are operating without essential sulfur dioxide control measures. This raises immediate environmental and public health concerns.

Flue-gas desulfurization (FGD) is a crucial set of technologies designed to remove sulfur dioxide from exhaust flue gases emitted by fossil-fuel power plants. Despite a state order issued in 2011 mandating the implementation of FGDs, power plants in Nagpur have been in operation for over a decade without adhering to these necessary measures.

Given the urgency of the situation, it is imperative to conduct a comprehensive study in Nagpur, akin to the CSE study, to analyze how coal-based thermal power plants are contributing to the deterioration of air quality. This study should encompass an assessment of the particulate matter emitted by these plants into the city's air.

Until such a study is conducted and appropriate measures are implemented, I strongly advise to halt the ongoing thermal power plant expansion in Nagpur. Any development that compromises public health is bound to have severe consequences!

Yours Sincerely

Vishal Muttemwar
General Secretary

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