

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4575

ANSWERED ON:24.04.2000

AIR POLLUTION

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**Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:**

- (a) whether the Government are aware that scientific evidence has emerged of drastic change in rainfall pattern if urban air pollution is not checked ;
- (b) whether the exhaust emitted from diesel engines pollute the air most;
- (c) if so ,the steps taken to check the growth of diesel engine run vehicles in Delhi; and
- (d) if not, the reasons therefor?

**Answer**

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS

(SHRI BABU LAL MARANDI)

(a): The Government are aware of the findings of the research studies reported in a journal regarding change in rainfall pattern due to air pollution. According to Indian Meteorological Department, however, no drastic changes in rainfall pattern have been observed from its observatories located in all major cities in India.

(b)&(c) : Oxides of nitrogen and particulate matter from diesel engines and carbon monoxide and hydrocarbons from petrol engines are the main pollutants causing air pollution. The steps taken to check the growth of diesel engine run vehicles in Delhi includes ban on registration of vehicles auctioned by Defence/Government Organizations, phasing out and ban on plying of all commercial/transport vehicles which are more than 15 years old, ban on registration of vehicles replacing petrol engine with diesel, ban on plying of diesel buses more than eight year old and pre-1990 taxies, adoption of Compressed Natural Gas (CNG) as auto-fuel, promotion of CNG taxies and battery operated 3 wheelers.

(d): Does not arise.