

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3288  
ANSWERED ON:15.04.2002  
STUDY ON AIR POLLUTION  
CHANDRAKANT BHURAO KHAIRE

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

- (a) whether WHO sponsored air pollution study has been carried out in the country;
- (b) if so, the main observations thereof;
- (c) whether the Government have taken any steps on the basis of this study to check air pollution in the country and if so, the details thereof;
- (d) whether these steps are adequate to control air pollution in the country;
- (e) if so, the extent thereof; and
- (f) if not, the other steps proposed to be taken in this regard, State and Union Territory-wise?

**Answer**

MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T. R. BAALU)

(a) & (b) Yes, Sir. The World Health Organisation has sponsored a study to carry out an epidemiological study on respiratory morbidity due to air pollution in Delhi. The study was carried out by Vallabh Bhai Patel Chest Institute, Delhi which indicated higher incidence of respiratory ailments amongst the people living in polluted areas in comparison to less polluted areas.

(c) The steps taken by the Government to control the air pollution in the country include the following: -

(i) A comprehensive Policy for Abatement of Pollution that lays stress on both the control and preventive aspects of pollution has been formulated.

(ii) Environmental Epidemiological Studies have been initiated in different parts of the country to assess the impact of pollution on human health and suggest mitigative measures.

(iii) Emission standards for industries have been notified under the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 to check pollution.

(iv) Emission standards for on-road vehicles and mass emission standards for new vehicles have been notified under the Motor Vehicles Act, 1988 and are enforced by Transport Departments of the State Governments including Delhi.

(v) Unleaded petrol is supplied in the entire country from 1.2.2000 and diesel with 0.25% sulphur maximum content is supplied from 1.1.2000 in the entire country. Ultra low sulphur (0.05%) fuel (petrol and diesel) has also been introduced in major cities.

(vi) Compressed Natural Gas (CNG) is supplied for automobiles through a number of retail outlets in Delhi to cater to the CNG vehicles.

(vii) Benzene concentration in petrol has been reduced.

(viii) A network of 295 Ambient Air Quality Monitoring Stations have been set up throughout the country.

(ix) Steps have been taken to control of pollution from 17 categories of highly polluting industries.

(x) Industries are also required to install necessary pollution control equipments before commissioning their plants.

(xi) Industries are required to take consent from the respective State Pollution Control Boards under the Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1981.

(d), (e) & (f) The measures taken to control air pollution are reviewed from time to time and action taken to improve the air quality in the country.