

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:7520
ANSWERED ON:15.05.2000
POLLUTION BY DUST AND SMOKE
DUKHA BHAGAT

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

- (a) whether any research studies have been undertaken to assess the damage done by pollution caused by dust and smoke;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the details of the efforts being made to reduce pollution caused by these elements?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS

(SHRI BABU LAL MARANDI)

(a) and (b) : Yes, Sir. Studies have been conducted to assess the damage done by pollution caused by dust on human beings, laboratory animals and plants. The broad conclusion is that dust and smoke pollution causes adverse impact on human health particularly affecting the respiratory system. It also affects the plant productivity and vitality

(c): Several measures are being taken to reduce dust and smoke pollution. Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1981 lays down dust and smoke levels in residential and industrial areas. Under this Act, administrative machinery like State Pollution Control Boards and Central Pollution Control Board have been set up. To meet air quality standards, measures like adoption of clean technologies, intensive afforestation measures in urban and deforested / desert lands, raising of green belts of identified plant species around factories, regular ambient air quality monitoring programmes in identified areas particularly at traffic intersections in Delhi, are being taken. Research studies are progressing to develop slurry - based transport system for fly ash transport in place of dry transport system. Directions are also being issued to industries like Thermal Power Plants under Section 5 of Environment Protection Act, 1986 for installation of Electrostatic Precipitators. To improve urban air quality, particularly the vehicular pollution, this Ministry in collaboration with Ministry of Surface Transport, the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas and the Ministry of Industries is working on upgradation of automobile technology, improvement of fuel quality, alternative methods of transport, improvement in traffic management, etc.