

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:213

ANSWERED ON:15.07.2002

DEATHS DUE TO AIR POLLUTION

ADHIR RANJAN CHOWDHURY;NEDURUMALLI JANARDHANA REDDY;SHYAMA SINGH

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

- (a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the newsitem captioned 'Air Pollution goes to the heart' appearing in the Times of India dated June 17, 2002;
- (b) if so, whether according to the World Bank study nearly 40 thousand people die every year in India only due to Air Pollution;
- (c) if so, the details and facts thereof;
- (d) whether the CPCB has since taken any concrete plans to check air pollution in the major cities of the country; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

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

- (a), (b) & (c) Yes Sir. However, there is no conclusive data available to confirm mortality attributable to air pollution .
- (d) & (e) The major steps taken by the Government including CPCB to control air pollution are mentioned below:
 - (i) A comprehensive Policy for Abatement of Pollution which lays stress on the preventive and control aspects of pollution has been evolved.
 - (ii) 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 the various Transport Departments of the State Governments including Delhi.
 - (iii) 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 has also been introduced in major cities.
 - (iv) Compressed Natural Gas (CNG) is supplied to automobiles through a number of retail outlets in Delhi and Mumbai to cater to the CNG vehicles.
 - (v) Benzene content in petrol has been reduced.
 - (vi) A network of 295 Ambient Air Quality Monitoring Stations has been set up throughout the country.
 - (vii) Emission standards for industries have been notified under the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 to check pollution.
 - (viii) Steps have been taken to control pollution from 17 categories of highly polluting industries.
 - (ix) Industries are also required to provide necessary pollution control measures before commissioning of their plants.
 - (x) Industries are required to take consent from the respective State Pollution Control Board under the Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974, the Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1981 and the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 for discharging their effluent and hazardous waste.
 - (xi) Environmental Action Plans for 24 critically polluted areas have been prepared and are under implementation.