

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:5570
ANSWERED ON:02.05.2005
IMPACT OF POISONOUS AIR ON HUMAN HEALTH
Chowdhury Shri Adhir Ranjan

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

- (a) whether the Government is aware that the air in many cities including metro cities and towns has not only become polluted but poisonous also;
- (b) if so, the details thereof ;
- (c) whether not only common men but neo-natal children have been found to be suffering from heart ailments as a result of the same; and
- (d) if so, the effective steps the Government is taking to protect against the future impending calamity?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS(SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA)

(a) & (b) According to the Central Pollution Control Board, the ambient levels of sulfur dioxide and oxides of nitrogen in major cities and towns are well within the prescribed environmental norms on annual average basis. However the ambient levels of Respirable Suspended Particulate Matter (RSPM) have exceeded the prescribed limit in some cities/towns.

(c) & (d) There is no conclusive data available to confirm heart ailments attributable to air pollution. The strategies adopted and measures taken to control air pollution include supply of improved auto-fuel, tightening of vehicular and industrial emission norms, mandatory environmental clearance for specified industries, promotion of cleaner technologies, strengthening net-work of air quality monitoring stations, assessment of air pollution load and source apportionment studies, preparation and implementation of action plans for major cities & critically polluted areas.