

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

STARRED QUESTION NO:51
ANSWERED ON:18.02.2009
MOST POLLUTED CITIES IN THE COUNTRY
Athawale Shri Ramdas

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

- (a) the names of the most polluted cities in the country as per their ranking and their position in the list of the polluted cities of the world;
- (b) the existing level of pollution in each of these cities;
- (c) whether the Government has conducted/proposed to conduct any survey in this regard;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to check the increasing level of pollution in these cities including Mumbai during the last three years and the current year?

Answer

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

(a) to (e) A statement is laid on the Table of the House

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (e) OF THE LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 51 FOR 18.02.2009 REGARDING MOST POLLUTED CITIES IN THE COUNTRY BY SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE

(a) & (b) Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) in collaboration with State Pollution Control Boards (SPCBs) and Pollution Control Committees (PCCs) are monitoring the ambient air quality at select locations in the country. Unlike Respirable Suspended Particulate Matter (RSPM), the levels of Sulphur Dioxide (SO₂) and barring Kolkata, the levels of Nitrogen Dioxide (NO₂) are within the National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS). As many as 85 cities/towns have been observed to be violating NAAQS with respect to RSPM in 2007. Their ranking in decreasing order of RSPM levels has been provided in Annexure I.

There is no standard methodology to rank the most polluted cities of the World. However, various organizations have come out with their ranking of most polluted cities of the World based on different parameters.

(c) & (d) Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) has set up a nation-wide network of ambient air quality monitoring under National Ambient Air Quality Monitoring Programme (NAMP). Under NAMP, 345 stations are being monitored covering 128 cities/towns in 26 States and 4 Union Territories. Further, source apportionment studies for RSPM have been carried out in 6 cities viz. Delhi, Bangalore, Pune, Kanpur, Mumbai and Chennai. The summary of conclusions of the interim report based on the analysis of one season data of these studies has been provided in Annexure II.

(e) Steps taken by the Government to check increasing levels of pollution in these cities including Mumbai are given below:

- (i) Notification of effluent and emission standards under Environment Protection Act, 1986;
- (ii) Ensuring compliance in 17 categories of highly polluting industries through Environment Surveillance Squad (ESS) programme;
- (iii) Implementation of action plan in 24 critically polluted industrial areas;
- (iv) Mandatory Environmental Clearance (EC) for industries and development projects;
- (v) Introduction of beneficiated coal in thermal power plants;
- (vi) Introduction of cleaner technology in industries;
- (vii) Augmentation of Mass Rapid Transport System (MRTS) in the country;
- (viii) Introduction of clean fuel like CNG in vehicles use;

(ix) Implementation of Bharat Stage III emission norms in 11 mega cities, namely, National Capital Region, Mumbai, Kolkata, Chennai, Bangalore, Ahmedabad, Hyderabad/Secunderabad, Kanpur, Pune, Surat and Agra w.e.f. 01.04.2005 whereas Bharat Stage II emission norms have been made applicable in the rest of the country;

(x) Preparation of zoning atlas for siting of industries;

(xi) Ensuring compliance of air pollution norms for diesel generator sets; and

(xii) Preparation and implementation of action plans for pollution control in 16 highly polluted cities.