

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:250

ANSWERED ON:18.02.2009

AIR POLLUTION

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

- (a) whether the level of air pollution has increased during the recent years;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether the Union Government proposes to bring about any change in the existing policy for monitoring air pollution in the light of its increasing level;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the State-wise details of funds provided by the Union Government to undertake specific programmes in this regard during the last three years and the current year alongwith the results achieved so far?

Answer

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

(a)& (b) The ambient air quality is regularly monitored under the National Air Quality Monitoring Programme (NAMP) by the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) alongwith various State Pollution Control Boards (SPCBs), Pollution Control Committees (PCCs) and the National Environmental Engineering and Research Institute (NEERI) at 342 locations across the country. The interpretation of data for last three years has revealed that air quality monitored at all locations is within the notified ambient air quality standards with respect to Sulphur Dioxide (SO₂) and barring a few locations, also with respect to Oxides of Nitrogen (NO_x). However, the levels of Respirable Suspended Particulate Matter (RSPM) are exceeding the norms at many locations.

Despite various policy interventions, RSPM levels in ambient air are showing an increasing trend in many areas due to rise in population, increasing number of vehicles and DG sets, rapid urbanization, industrialization, construction activities and agricultural practices.

(c) & (d) The number of stations to monitor ambient air quality is increasing under the NAMP. There is a target to increase 342 existing manual stations to 700 by the end of 11th Plan. Continuous monitoring of ambient air quality has been strengthened.

(e) The state wise details of funds provided by the CPCB during the last three years and the current year for ambient air quality monitoring is annexed. Following results have been achieved through the NAMP programme:

1. There is a wider network to monitor ambient air quality at national level.
2. Status and trends in air quality are available for developing preventive and corrective strategies to control air pollution.