

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:427

ANSWERED ON:24.02.2010

RISING POLLUTION IN CITIES

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

- (a) whether air pollution is rapidly increasing in all the major cities of the country including Kanpur;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether the Government has conducted any survey on the adverse impact of pollution on the inhabitants of these cities and on crops; and
- (d) the action plan of the Government in this regard?

**Answer**

MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) FOR ENVIRONMENT & FORESTS(SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH)

(a) & (b). The ambient air quality is regularly being monitored by the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) in association with concerned State Pollution Control Boards (SPCBs)/Pollution Control Committees (PCCs) and the National Environmental Engineering Research Institute (NEERI) at 365 locations in 141 cities and towns across the country, including Kanpur, under the National Ambient Air Quality Monitoring Programme (NAMP). The analysis of ambient air quality data for the last 03 years has revealed that the levels of particulate matter having size less than 10 micron (PM10) have exceeded the prescribed norms in the majority of cities, including Kanpur. However, there is no clear trend.

The levels of Sulphur Dioxide are within prescribed norms across the country and the levels of Nitrogen Dioxide are within norms in most of the cities including Kanpur. Rapid urbanization, industrialization, growing population of vehicles, burning of biomass, use of generator sets and resuspension of dust are the main reasons of air pollution in cities.

(c) The CPCB has sponsored two epidemiological studies entitled "Epidemiological study of Air Pollution on Human Health (adults) in Delhi (2002-2005)" and "Study on Ambient Air Quality, Respiratory Symptoms and Lung Function of Children in Delhi (2003-2005)" through Chittaranjan National Cancer Institute (CNCI), Kolkata. However, CPCB or Uttar Pradesh Pollution Control Board (UPPCB) have not carried out any epidemiological study for Kanpur. The CPCB, UPPCB or Indian Agricultural Research Institute have not studied either the impact of air pollution on crops in Kanpur.

(d) The Government has, inter-alia, taken the following measures to control air pollution in major cities:

- i. Notification of emission standards for various categories of industry under the Environment (Protection) Rules, 1986;
- ii. Formulation of action plan for improvement of ambient air quality in 16 cities apart from Delhi;
- iii. Introduction of cleaner fuel for control of vehicular pollution as per Auto Fuel Policy;
- iv. Making compulsory the sale of 2T pre-mix petrol for two stroke-two and three wheelers;
- v. Enforcement of 'Pollution Under Control (PUC)' certificate system to check exhaust emissions from in-use vehicles;
- vi. Implementation of stringent emission norms for generator sets;
- vii. Use of beneficiated/blended coal (ash content less than 34%) for coal based thermal power plants so as to reduce dust emission;
- viii. Undertaking Source Apportionment Studies in 06 metro cities, namely, Delhi, Mumbai, Pune, Bangaluru, Kanpur and Chennai;
- ix. Implementation of the recommendations of the Charter on Corporate Responsibility for Environment Protection (CREP) for 17 Categories of highly polluting industries; and
- x. Monitoring of air polluting industries for compliance with notified emission norms.