

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1086  
ANSWERED ON:03.03.2010  
ENVIRONMENTAL PERFORMANCE  
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**Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:**

- (a) whether inspite of taking all out efforts, the country is lagging far behind in environmental performance as indicated in 2010 Environmental Performance Index (EPI) ranking India at 123rd position;
- (b) if so, the reasons for poor performance of the country;
- (c) whether newly industrialized nations are in much higher position in pollution control;
- (d) if so , the factors responsible for higher pollution in India; and
- (e) the steps taken or being taken by the Government in this regard?

**Answer**

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

(a) & (b) The report on 2010 Environmental Performance Index (EPI) has been produced by a team of experts from Yale University and Columbia University and was released on 28.1.2010. A total of 163 countries have been ranked as per EPI and India figures at 123rd position.

It has been said that serious data gaps have limited the ability to measure performance on a number of important issues. Notwithstanding the above fact, the relatively lower rank of India appears to be due to its huge population which exerts immense pressure on the environment. Moreover, the analysis of the policy drivers underlying the 2010 ranking suggests that income is a major determinant of environmental success.

(c),(d)&(e) It is not correct to say that the newly industrialised nations are in much higher position as per the EPI. Though some countries like Brazil and Russia are ranked 62 and 69, countries like South Africa, China and Indonesia are ranked 115, 121 and 134 respectively.

The factors responsible for pollution in India are the increase in vehicular traffic, high rate of industrial and infrastructural growth, increasing urbanisation and pressure of population.

The Government has taken various steps to control pollution, including the following :

- (i) Notification of general and source specific emission and effluent standards.
- (ii) Implementation of auto fuel policy including usage of cleaner fuel.
- (iii) Introduction of Environmental Impact Assessment Process for industrial and infrastructure projects.
- (iv) Implementation of Charter on Corporate Responsibility for Environmental Protection in respect of 17 categories of industries.
- (v) Regular monitoring for compliance of environmental standards.
- (vi) Preparation and implementation of city specific action plans for improvement of air quality.