

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1490
ANSWERED ON:15.07.2009
POLLUTION IN CITIES
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Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the level of pollution in various cities of the country is increasing;
- (b) if so, the reasons thereof;
- (c) Whether the Union Government has conducted any survey to find out the level of pollution in these cities;
- (d) if so, the details thereof;
- (e) the details of assistance including funds provided by the Union Government to the States and the funds spent therefrom during the last three years and the current year.State-wise, year-wise; and
- (f) the action taken/proposed to be taken by the Union Government against agencies/industries causing pollution in the country?

Answer

MINISTER OF THE STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH)

(a) to (d) The Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) with the help of concerned State Pollution Control Boards (SPCBs) and Pollution Control Committees (PCCs) is monitoring the ambient air quality in the country at 346 stations covering 130 cities and towns.

The monitored data for ambient air for the last 03 years reveals that the levels of Sulphur Dioxide (SO₂) are within the prescribed air quality norms in residential areas in all the cities and those of Nitrogen Dioxide (NO₂) are within norms in most of the cities with fluctuating trend.However,the levels of Respirable Suspended Particulate Matter (RSPM) exceed the prescribed norms in many cities. The RSPM levels exceeded the prescribed norms in residential areas in 86 out of 125 cities monitored during 2008.The trend of RSPM levels in the last 03 years is fluctuating.The annual average of NO_x level in residential areas exceeded the prescribed norms at a total of 08 locations in Kolkata, Howrah and Delhi.

The causes of air pollution are vehicular movement,industrialization, burning of fuel in kitchen, operation of DG sets,etc.

(e) The funds provided by the Central Government through CPCB for National Air Monitoring Programme to various SPCBs and PCCs during the last 03 years are mentioned at Annexure-I. A provision of Rs 400 Lakhs has been made for the current financial year, i.e., 2009 -10.

(f) The Government has taken various measures to control air pollution, like implementation of notified emission standards for industries and generator sets. Implementation of action plans for air quality management in 16 cities is also being undertaken.

Implementation of emission norms for new and in-use vehicles and fuel quality in accordance with the Road Map of the Auto Fuel Policy, introduction of cleaner fuel in public transport and strengthening of mass transportation are underway.

The CPCB and concerned SPCBs/PCCs undertake inspection of industries to enforce the notified environmental norms and appropriate action including closure directions and prosecution are initiated in cases of violation.