

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

STARRED QUESTION NO:51

ANSWERED ON:28.07.2010

RISE IN POLLUTION

Adhalrao Patil Shri Shivaji; Shankar Alias Kushal Tiwari Shri Bhisma

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

- (a) whether the level of air, water and noise pollution has increased in the major metropolitan cities of the country during the last three years;
- (b) if so, the extent of increase noticed in these cities;
- (c) whether the efforts made by State Pollution Control Boards to reduce the level of pollution have not brought the desired results;
- (d) if so, the fresh initiatives taken/ proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard; and
- (e) the funds allocated to various States/ UTs during each of the last three years to control pollution?

**Answer**

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

(a) to (e): A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARAS (a) to (e) OF THE LOK SABHA STARED QUESTION NO.51 FOR 28.7.2010 REGARDING RISE IN POLLUTION BY SHRI ADHALRAO PATIL SHIVAJI AND SHRI BHISMA SHANKER ALIAS KUSHAL TIWARI.

(a) & (b) The levels of air pollution are being measured in the major metropolitan cities (Delhi, Chennai, Kolkata and Mumbai) under the National Air Quality Monitoring Programme (NAMP). The monitoring results for the last three years indicate that the levels of Dioxide (SO<sub>2</sub>) are within the prescribed norms in these four cities. The levels of Nitrogen Dioxide (NO<sub>2</sub>) show an increasing trend in Chennai and Delhi but are within the prescribed norms in Chennai. The levels of NO<sub>2</sub> in Kolkata and Mumbai are above the prescribed limits, however, there is no significant trend. The levels of Particulate Matter (PM<sub>10</sub>) in Chennai, Delhi and Kolkata indicate an increasing trend whereas Mumbai exhibits a mixed trend. The levels of PM<sub>10</sub> are exceeding the prescribed norms only in the year 2009 in the case of Chennai, whereas they are exceeding the norms in the other three cities in all the years. The details of levels of air pollution and extent of increase or decrease therein in above mentioned metros are given in annexure-I.

The water quality in Delhi and Kolkata is being assessed in terms of Dissolved Oxygen (DO), Biochemical Oxygen Demand (BOD) and Faecal Coliform (FC). In Delhi, during the last three years average levels of DO, BOD and FC in Yamuna at Nizamuddin Bridge and Agra canal are not conforming with the prescribed limits. At Palla, DO and BOD are within the prescribed limits except for FC which is exceeding the limit. The water quality trends in river Hooghly in Kolkata during the last three years indicate that whereas DO levels remained within the prescribed limit at all stations, BOD levels were exceeding the permissible limit at Garden Reach and Dakshineswar. The FC levels are above the permissible limits at all stations (annexure-II).

In Mumbai, the monitoring of water quality of Mithi River was started in 2008. The data for the years 2008 & 2009 indicate that DO and BOD levels were 0.7 & 3.3 miligram per litre and 45.6 & 19.4 miligram per litre respectively and are not in conformity with the prescribed limits. In case of Chennai the waste water is disposed to the sea through sewage carrying drains and the surface water quality is not being measured by Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) and the Tamil Nadu State Pollution Control Board (SPCB).

The noise pollution has been monitored only sporadically in the metropolitan cities by the concerned SPCBs / Pollution Control Committees (PCCs). Therefore, it is not possible to ascertain the levels and trend of noise pollution in these cities.

(c) The SPCBs/PCCs have been making concerted efforts to monitor and contain pollution in these cities. However, rapid urbanization, burgeoning population, infrastructure development, industrialization and growing vehicular population along with the limited capacities of municipal bodies are compounding the problem of pollution.

(d) The fresh initiatives taken by the Government for the abatement of pollution are interalia, the following:

- (i) Conduct of source apportionment studies for the fine particular matter in ambient air;
- (ii) Establishment of the National Ganga River Basin Authority;

- (iii) Setting up of the National Ambient Noise monitoring Network;
- (iv) Institution of continuous Ambient Air Quality Monitoring Stations;
- (v) Preparation of Actions Plans for controlling air pollution in 16 cities apart from Delhi;
- (vi) Adoption of Corporate Responsibility for Environmental Protection
- (vii) Implementation of Bharat Stage III & IV norms to contain vehicular pollution;

(e) The Ministry of Environment & Forests (MoEF) provides funds to the States and Union Territories (UTs) including SPCBs/PCCs under various schemes which include the schemes of Assistance for Abatement of Pollution, Common Effluent Treatment Plants (CETPs), Treatment, Storage and Disposal Facilities (TSDFs), National River Conservation Programme (NRCP) and National Lake Conservation Plan (NLCP). The details of funds made available by the MoEF under these schemes to the States and Union Territories (UTs) including SPCBs/PCCs during the last three years are provided in annexure-III. Besides, CPCB also provides financial assistance to various SPCBs / PCCs for undertaking various activities relating to abatement of pollution, the details of which are given in Annexure-IV.