

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:413

ANSWERED ON:10.11.2010

POLLUTION IN DELHI

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

- (a) the names of the most polluted cities in the country, State-wise;
- (b) whether Delhi's air quality has worsened during the Commonwealth Games and Delhi's air pollution is higher than the average of Indian cities;
- (c) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;
- (d) whether most of the games venues are showing constantly high levels of particulate matter with levels of ozone and NO₂ also rising by evening;
- (e) if so, the details thereof; and
- (f) the action taken/being taken by the Government to remedy the situation?

Answer

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

(a) to (e) Ambient air quality is monitored in 175 cities, towns and industrial areas under National Air Monitoring Programme (NAMP), coordinated by the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB). The annual average concentration of Sulphur Dioxide (SO₂) is within the permissible limits in all the cities. However, the concentration of Nitrogen Dioxide (NO₂) is exceeding the standards in 09 cities, including Delhi and that of Particulate Matter, less than 10 micron (PM₁₀), in 94 cities, such as Jharia, Ludhiana, Delhi, etc.

CPCB is regularly carrying out ambient air monitoring at 6 locations on 24X7 basis in Delhi. Data collected during the Commonwealth Games period indicates that the levels of SO₂, NO₂ and PM₁₀ did not show upward trend. Diversion of non-Delhi bound traffic at borders, rescheduling of Puja holidays for schools and universities in Delhi, operating public transport at its full capacity, temporary closure of Rajghat Power Plant, etc. helped in maintaining the air quality in Delhi.

The ambient air at games venues during Commonwealth Games-2010 was monitored by Indian Institute of Tropical Management (IITM), Pune. IITM has reported that the levels of Ozone were mostly in good range and occasionally crossing to moderate levels whereas, NO₂ remained in moderate range.

Some of the steps taken by the Government to control air pollution in Delhi include implementation of BS-IV emission norms for new 4-wheeler vehicles & BS-III norms for 2 & 3 wheelers with effect from 01.04.2010, completion of phase-2 of Delhi Metro before CWG-2010, CNG operated buses, taxis & autos for public transport, phasing out coal based IP Power Plant and diversion of trucks/goods vehicles at borders.