

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2359

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ENVIRONMENTAL POLLUTION

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

- (a) whether degradation of environment and increasing air, water and noise pollution level in various parts of the country including rural and tribal areas is a major cause of health problem being faced by human beings in the country;
- (b) if so, whether the Government has conducted any survey/study in this regard;
- (c) if so, the details and the outcome thereof; and
- (d) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to control degradation of environment and check the increasing pollution level?

**Answer**

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

(a) Increasing air, water and noise pollution level may have adverse health impact depending upon various factors viz., climatic conditions, length of exposure, concentration of pollutants, etc. However, there is no conclusive data to establish co-relationship between air, water & noise pollution and the incidence of health ailments.

(b) & (c) On the basis of a survey carried out by Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) in 88 major / prominent industrial clusters in the country, a report has been brought out on "Comprehensive Environmental Assessment on Industrial Clusters." The report has identified polluted industrial clusters based on Comprehensive Environmental Pollution Index (CEPI). The index captures various health related dimensions of environment including air, water and land.

(d) Government has taken a number of steps to control pollution. These include the following:

- (i) Support to the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) in the operation of the National Water Quality Monitoring Programme (NWQMP) and the National Ambient Air Quality Monitoring Programme (NAAQMP).
- (ii) Development and notification of standards (effluent / emission) under the Environment

(Protection) Act, 1986 for various categories of industries to check the industrial pollution.

(iii) Implementation of Air Pollution Control (APC) systems and Effluent Treatment Plants

(ETPs) in industrial units through consent management and environmental clearance system.

(iv) Establishment of Common Effluent Treatment Plants (CETPs) and Treatment Storage Disposal Facilities (TSDFs) for treating industrial effluents / hazardous waste collectively.

(v) Stricter noise standards have been notified.

(vi) Strengthening of CPCB and State Pollution Control Boards (SPCBs) for effective monitoring of air, water and noise pollution.

(vii) Implementation of Corporate Responsibility for Environment Protection (CREP) in 17 categories of highly polluting industries.

(viii) Implementation of National River Conservation Plan (NRCP) and establishment of National Ganga River Basin Authority (NGRBA).

(ix) The National Green Tribunal has been set up to settle civil disputes concerning environment-related issues.

(x) Stricter emission norms for automobiles and supply of improved fuel quality by the introduction of unleaded petrol and reduction of Benzene in the petrol.

(xi) Promotion of cleaner fuels like Compressed Natural Gas (CNG) / Liquefied Petroleum Gas (LPG).

(xii) Improvement in public transport system like introduction of Mass Rapid Transport System (MRTS).

(xiii) Introduction of clean technologies in industries and mass awareness programmes.

(xiv) Stricter emission norms for polluting industries.

(xv) Strengthening of air monitoring networks.

(xvi) Implementation of action plans for the critically polluted areas.

(xvii) Prescribing environmental safeguards and conditions for specified categories of developmental activities under the Environment Impact Assessment (EIA) Notification, 2006.