

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:363

ANSWERED ON:10.11.2010

REVIEW OF WORKING OF CPCB AND SPCB

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

- (a) whether the Government has recently reviewed the working of Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) and State Pollution Control Boards (SPCBs) to assess their effectiveness in controlling air, water and noise pollution in major cities of the country;
- (b) if so, the outcome thereof;
- (c) whether National Environmental Engineering Research Institute (NEERI) has conducted a study to identify the causes for environmental pollution in these cities;
- (d) if so, the salient features of the study; and
- (e) the action taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to implement these findings?

Answer

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

(a) & (b): The Ministry of Environment & Forests had sponsored a study on 'Evaluation of Central Pollution Control Board' for carrying out an evaluation of its performance in respect of financial, administrative, manpower and requisite infrastructure to execute various pollution prevention and control activities being implemented across the country. The study was conducted by the Indian Institute of Management (IIM), Lucknow. The IIM submitted its report in March, 2010. The report has, inter alia, recommended strengthening of Human Resources, Computerization, Laboratory up-gradation and Infrastructural Development so as to achieve the objective of effective prevention and control of pollution as envisaged under various environmental statutes.

(c) (d) & (e): The ambient air quality monitoring data collected in various cities, towns and industrial areas in the country over the years reveals that particulate matter of size less than 10 microns (PM₁₀) exceeds the notified norms at many locations. Accordingly, a study was initiated in August, 2003 by oil companies to know the various sources of air pollution and for estimation of the quantum of emission in six major cities (Delhi, Bengaluru, Pune, Mumbai, Chennai and Kanpur). The study was subsequently taken over by CPCB in collaboration with premier research institutes like the Automotive Research Association of India (ARAI), Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), National Environmental Engineering Research Institute (NEERI) and The Energy & Resources Institute (TERI). The NEERI has undertaken this study only in two cities, i.e. Delhi and Mumbai while the other cities are being covered by the aforementioned institutes. The findings of the study would form the basis for future policy decisions, including a review of the 'Auto Fuel Policy' which is being implemented by the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas.