

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1681  
ANSWERED ON:07.03.2011  
CHECK ON POLLUTION IN RURAL AREAS  
Yadav Shri Om Prakash

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

- (a) whether any assessment has been made by the Government about pollution related damage caused due to the use of wood, coal and dung-cake based hearth in rural areas;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the efforts being made by the Government to save rural population from such pollution?

**Answer**

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

(a)&(b) The pollution in ambient air in rural areas, particularly in terms of PM10 (particulate matter having size less than 10 micron), is due to agricultural practices, burning of post-harvest residual stalks, use of wood, coal and dung-cake based hearth and baking of earthen pots.

NEERI, Nagpur has undertaken a study, namely, Control of Indoor Air Pollution in Rural Areas under RSWNET (Rural Development, SC/ST, Women, North-East and Tribal Sector) project during 2009-10. NEERI has reported an increase in concentration of Carbon Monoxide, PM10 and Volatile Organic Compounds in indoor air in the rural household due to burning of wood, coal and dung-cake in kitchen.

(c) The Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE) has launched a National Biomass Cook-stoves Initiative in December, 2009 with the primary aim to enhance the availability of clean and efficient energy for the energy deficient and poorer sections of the society. MNRE is also implementing National Biogas and Manure Management Programme and a total of 4.32 million family type biogas plants have been installed under the programme since inception to create a smoke free environment for woman in rural kitchen.