

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3448

ANSWERED ON:29.07.2009

IMPACT OF RISING NUMBER OF VEHICLES ON ENVIRONMENT

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

- (a) whether the rising number of vehicles is a major cause of environmental pollution in cities particularly in metro cities of the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether Government has assessed the adverse impact of rising number of vehicles on the environment particularly in metros;
- (d) if so, the outcome thereof; and
- (e) the steps taken/being taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

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

(a) & (b) Yes, Sir. The rising number of vehicles is a major cause of air and noise pollution in cities particularly in metro cities of the country. The traffic pattern on Indian roads is highly heterogeneous and is responsible for high vehicular pollution as well as for the adverse effect on the traffic system. Further, 23 metro cities contribute 35 percent of the total motor vehicles in the country.

(c) & (d) A source apportionment study for assessment and source of air pollution has been carried out in 6 cities viz. Delhi, Bangalore, Pune, Kanpur, Mumbai and Chennai. Analysis of data shows that the levels of suspended particulate matter in the ambient air are significantly high and vehicles are a major contributor towards such high levels.

(e) Various steps taken by the Government to regulate traffic management and contain vehicular pollution are mentioned below:

Bharat Stage III emission for 4-wheelers norms have been made applicable in 11 mega cities, namely, National Capital Region, Mumbai, Kolkata, Chennai, Bangalore, Ahmedabad, Hyderabad/Secunderabad, Kanpur, Pune, Surat and Agra w.e.f. 01.04.2005 whereas Bharat Stage II emission norms for 2 & 3 wheelers have been made applicable in rest of the country.

Pollution Under Control norms for in-use vehicles have been made stricter w.e.f. 01.10.2004

Augmentation of infrastructure i.e. construction of flyovers, bridges, road networks and broadening of existing roads.

Procurement of state-of-art violation detection equipment system like vehicle speed detection cameras etc.

Implementation of bus lane system and automated toll collection for buses on toll-roads.

Regular conduction of mass awareness programme for encouraging public transport system, car pooling & fuel saving tips.

Augmentation of mass rapid transport system (MRTS) all over the country in time-bound manner.