

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4289
ANSWERED ON:29.08.2011
DEPLETION OF ECOLOGICAL BALANCE
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Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the ecological balance is rapidly depleting in the metros cities in the country;
- (b) if so, the reasons therefor; and
- (c) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to maintain ecological balance ?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) FOR ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRIMATI JAYANTHI NATARAJAN)

(a)&(b) Construction activities and in particular vehicular exhaust emissions have affected the air quality in metro cities. The ambient air quality deterioration is attributable to higher concentration of Respirable Suspended Particulate Matter (RSPM). Water pollution is mainly from non-point domestic sewage which comes within the jurisdiction of urban local Authority. Out of the total discharge of about 38,000 Million Litres per Day (MLD) of sewage, treatment capacity is limited for about 11,000 MLD for the schemes through out India. The depletion of ecology in terms of flora and fauna has not been studied in Metro cities of India.

(c) The steps initiated for restoration of environment quality include :

- (i) Notification of Ambient Air Quality Standards with respect to twelve pollutants and preparation of Action Plans to meet these standards;
- (ii) Implementation of the Auto Fuel Policy for ensuring compliance at manufacturing stage to meet the norms of Bharat Stage III and IV as well as to meet the fuel quality specifications;
- (iii) Emphasis on preparation of Master Plan/Development Plan of Metro Cities and preparation of compatible land Use Plan including not permitting industries in non-conforming areas; and
- (iv) Environmental clearance has been made mandatory for establishment of certain categories of polluting industries, building construction and infrastructure projects.
- (v) Jawaharlal Nehru National Urban Renewal Mission (JNNURM) Programme of the Urban local body is designed to address the water pollution problems in cities in a phased manner. The Ministry is also tackling the problem through City Sewage Management Scheme along major rivers and lakes;