

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2864

ANSWERED ON:12.12.2011

POLLUTION LEVEL IN DELHI

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

- (a) the level of air pollution in various metro cities in the country particularly in Delhi;
- (b) whether the recent smog in Delhi is caused due to air pollution;
- (c) if so, the details thereof; and
- (d) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to control air pollution particularly in Metropolitan cities?

Answer

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

(a) The ambient air quality is monitored by the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) in association with various State Pollution Control Boards (SPCBs) and Pollution Control Committees (PCCs) under National Air Monitoring Programme (NAMP) in terms of Sulphur Dioxide (SO₂), Nitrogen Dioxide (NO₂) and PM₁₀ (particulate matter having size less than 10 micron) in 35 metro cities including Delhi. A table showing annual averages of SO₂, NO₂ and PM₁₀ for the metro cities during last three years is annexed.

(b)&(c) Smog is more common in cities with sunny, warm & dry climate. Apart from air pollution due to large number of vehicles and coal based thermal power plants, inter alia, it is related to a weather phenomenon called 'inversion' which usually occurs in winter in Delhi.

(d) Government has taken various steps to control air pollution, particularly in metropolitan cities which inter alia, includes B.S.IV compliant passenger cars in 12 cities and National Capital Region, supply of cleaner fuels as per Auto Fuel Policy, strict compliance of emission norms in industry, Pollution Under Control (PUC) Certificate system for in-use vehicles, strengthening public transport, gaseous fuel for public transport in metros as per availability, etc.