

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2877

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POLLUTION LEVEL IN DELHI

Das Gupta Shri Gurudas;Kumar Shri Kaushalendra;Mahto Shri Baidyanath Prasad

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

- (a) whether pollution level in Delhi has increased recently which had been under control after the introduction of CNG in public transport;
- (b) if so, whether the rise in the number of diesel vehicles due to high variation in the prices of petrol and diesel has been the main reason for the increase in level of pollution; and
- (c) if so, the details thereof and the measures being taken by the Government to contain the pollution level in Delhi?

**Answer**

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

(a) to (b) The Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) is monitoring ambient air quality in respect of Sulphur Dioxide (SO<sub>2</sub>), Nitrogen Dioxide (NO<sub>2</sub>), Particulate Matter (PM<sub>10</sub>) and Carbon Monoxide (CO) at six locations in Delhi. The annual average data (1997-2010) indicate that the concentration of sulphur dioxide has shown decreasing trend and the concentration of NO<sub>2</sub> was steady (till 2002) and has shown increasing trend from 2002 to 2010. However, the concentration of PM<sub>10</sub> was fluctuating from 2001 to 2005 and has shown increasing trend from 2006 to 2010 (144 Åµg/m<sup>3</sup> to 249 Åµg/m<sup>3</sup>). Further, the concentration of CO has considerably decreased from 2002 to 2010.

The rise in air pollution in the national capital may not be attributed to any single factor. A number of factors, including rapid increase in the number of vehicles, have been collectively contributing towards pollution. The main cause of increasing vehicular pollution in Delhi is due to exponential increase in total number of vehicles, including diesel vehicles, from 34.24 lakh (2002) to 69.31 lakh (2011). It has also been reported that price differential between petrol and diesel (28% to 35% since 2008) is promoting people to buy diesel vehicles instead of petrol vehicles.

(c) The following steps taken by the Government for containing the pollution level in Delhi:

- (i) Bharat Stage (BS) –IV emission norms have been implemented in the National Capital Region from 2010.
- (ii) Stringent Emission Standards have been implemented to regulate emissions from in-use vehicles from October, 2004.
- (iii) Public transportation system in Delhi is now running on clean fuels like Compressed Natural Gas (CNG).
- (iv) Pollution Under Control (PUC) norms for diesel vehicles have been revised and made stringent from the year 2010.
- (v) Upgradation of Delhi Metro line along with feeder buses to promote use of mass public transport system.
- (vi) Shifting of industries out of non conforming area of Delhi has been undertaken.