

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

STARRED QUESTION NO:353

ANSWERED ON:30.04.2012

AIR POLLUTION IN TOWNS AND CITIES

Pradhan Shri Nityananda;Sharma Shri Jagdish

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

- (a) whether any study has been conducted by the Centre for Science and Environment and other such organisations to assess the impact of growing pollution on citizens in Delhi and other metropolitan/non-metropolitan towns and cities;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the response of the Government thereto;
- (c) whether the cases of cancer, heart-attack and respiratory diseases are on the rise on account of rise in air-pollution level in these cities;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the plan of action initiated by the Government to contain air-pollution in metropolitan cities?

Answer

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

(a) to (e). A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) to (e) of LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 353 FOR 30.04.2012 REGARDING AIR POLLUTION IN TOWNS AND CITIES.

(a)&(b): Centre for Science & Environment (CSE) has published a report titled "Mobility Crisis Agenda for action 2010". The report includes the results of study conducted by World Health Organisation (WHO), Health Effect Institute's PAPA project, World Bank, etc. on air pollution, health, cancer and mortality studies in India. These results are indicative rather than conclusive because effects of air pollution are additive and synergistic and include a range of cumulative factors like food habits, socio-economic status, medical history, genetic problems, stress, etc.

(c)&(d): No direct study on air pollution related mortality and cancer has been conducted by CSE or Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB). However, CPCB sponsored 3 epidemiological projects (2 in urban areas and 1 in rural areas) to Chittaranjan National Cancer Institute, Kolkata. The findings of the study indicate several pulmonary and systematic changes, altered immunity and damage to chromosomes and DNA and other health impairments associated with cumulative exposure to high level of particulate pollution which may increase the risk of various diseases including cardiovascular and cancer.

(e): The Government have taken various steps to contain air pollution and for prevention of diseases caused thereby which, inter alia, include :

- i) Notification of emission standards for various categories of industries, under the Environment (Protection) Rules, 1986;
- ii) Implementation of action plans for improvement of the ambient air quality in 16 cities apart from Delhi;
- iii) Introduction of cleaner fuel (B.S. III/IV compliant) as per the Auto Fuel Policy;
- iv) Introduction of gaseous fuel in select cities and towns;
- v) Sale and registration of B.S. IV compliant passenger cars in selected metropolitan cities apart from National Capital Region with effect from 1st April, 2010;
- vi) Use of beneficiated coal for coal based thermal power plants and decommissioning of two coal based power plants in Faridabad and Delhi;
- vii) Enforcement of 'Pollution Under Control (PUC)' certificate scheme to check exhaust emissions from in-use vehicles;
- viii) Sale of 2T pre-mix petrol for two stroke-two and three wheelers;
- ix) Implementation of stringent emission norms for generator sets;
- x) Source Apportionment Studies undertaken in six metro cities;
- xi) Implementation of the recommendations of the Charter on Corporate Responsibility for Environment Protection (CREP) for Seventeen Categories of air polluting industries;
- xii) Establishment of National Ambient Air Quality Monitoring Network;
- xiii) Inspection and monitoring of air polluting industries for compliance of the emission norms; and
- xiv) Strengthening of public transport including establishment of metro rail in a few select metropolitan cities.