

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:494  
ANSWERED ON:13.08.2012  
AIR POLLUTION IN RURAL AREAS  
Agarwal Shri Jai Prakash

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

- (a) whether air pollution is continuously increasing in rural areas due to expansion of industries;
- (b) whether any study has been conducted regarding the outcome of air pollution in rural areas;
- (c) if so, the details thereof; and
- (d) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to create awareness among common people regarding air pollution?

**Answer**

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

(a) to (d) According to the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB), it has not carried out any specific study on increasing air pollution due to expansion of industries in rural areas. However, the level of air pollution, particularly in terms of Respirable Suspended Particulate Matter (RSPM) in ambient air, is showing an increasing trend in many areas in the country. This is due to industrialization including expansion of existing industries as well as rise in population, increasing number of vehicles and DG sets, rapid urbanization, construction activities and agricultural practices including burning of post-harvest residual stalks. The public awareness on air pollution control is created through electronic and print media from time to time.