

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:686
ANSWERED ON:13.08.2012
TOXIC METALS IN AIR
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Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether air pollution in Delhi and other metropolitan cities are increasing due to the presence of toxic metals in the air;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the content of chromium and nickel is higher than the incremental lifetime cancer risk standards; and
- (a) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

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

(a) to (d) The Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) along with the State Pollution Control Boards (SPCBs)/ Pollution Control Committees are implementing the National Air Quality Monitoring Programme (NAMP) under which three criteria air pollutants viz., Sulphur Dioxide (SO₂), Nitrogen dioxide (NO₂) and Particulate Matter (PM₁₀) are monitored regularly. Toxic metals in air such as lead (Pb), Nickel (Ni) and Chromium (Cr) are also monitored. While CPCB is monitoring particulate lead in ambient air of Delhi, the National Environmental Engineering Research Institute (NEERI) is monitoring lead, nickel and chromium in six cities viz. Chennai, Delhi, Hyderabad, Kolkata, Mumbai and Nagpur. The concentration of Nickel ranged from 0.001 to 0.018 µg/m³ in 2011 in six cities. There is no National Ambient Air quality Standard for Chromium. However, the concentration of chromium ranged from 0.001 to 0.009 µg/m³ in 2011 in six cities.

The steps taken by the Government to improve the ambient air quality include the following:

- (i) A comprehensive Policy for Abatement of Pollution that lays stress on both the control and preventive aspects of pollution has been formulated;
- (ii) City specific action plans have also been prepared and are at various stages of implementation;
- (iii) Emission standards for on-road vehicles and mass emission standards for new vehicles have been notified under the Motor Vehicles Act, 1988 and are enforced by Transport Departments of the State Governments.
- (iv) Unleaded petrol is supplied in the entire country from 1.2.2000. Bharat stage-IV emission norms introduced in 13 mega cities including NCR for new 4-wheelers in 2010. Bharat stage III norms introduced for two, three wheelers and diesel driven agricultural tractors from April 1, 2010 throughout country.
- (v) Compressed Natural Gas (CNG) is supplied for automobiles through a number of retail outlets in Delhi and Mumbai to cater to the CNG vehicles.
- (vi) Effluent and emission standards for industries have been notified under the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 to check pollution.