

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

STARRED QUESTION NO:59
ANSWERED ON:26.11.2012
POLLUTION IN METROPOLITAN CITIES
Bali Ram Dr. ;J Helen Davidson

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

- (a) whether the Government has conducted any study to assess the impact of growing air pollution/smog in metropolitan and urban areas including Delhi;
- (b) if so, the reasons for the persistent smog/pollution in these areas;
- (c) the number of persons suffering from respiratory disorders due to air pollution/smog;
- (d) whether the Government has formulated any scheme to check the situation; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof including the action taken by the Government to improve the air quality?

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 IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (e) OF LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 59 FOR ANSWER ON 26.11.2012 REGARDING POLLUTION IN METROPOLITAN CITIES BY SHRIMATI J. HELEN DAVIDSON AND DR. BALIRAM.

(a) to (e) Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB), with the State Pollution Control Boards, is monitoring ambient air quality at 537 locations covering 222 cities/ towns including 53 metropolitan cities in the country. The persistence of smoggy conditions in certain areas could be attributed to meteorological factors. CPCB has not carried out any assessment of the impact of smog in metropolitan and urban areas including Delhi. Health effects such as manifestation of respiratory ailments could be associated with air pollution. No statistical data is available regarding the number of persons suffering from respiratory disorders caused due to pollution. The steps taken by the Government to control environmental pollution include formulation of a comprehensive policy for abatement of pollution, supply of improved auto-fuel, tightening of vehicular and industrial emission norms, mandatory environmental clearance for specified industries, management of municipal, hazardous & bio-medical wastes, promotion of cleaner technologies, strengthening the network of air quality monitoring stations, preparation and implementation of action plans for major cities & critically polluted areas, increasing public awareness etc.