

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3322

ANSWERED ON:18.03.2013

POLLUTION BY SUSPENDED PARTICULATE MATTER

Hazari Shri Maheshwar ;Saroj Smt. Sushila;Thamaraiselvan Shri R.;Vardhan Shri Harsh;Verma Smt. Usha

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

- (a) whether Suspended Particulate Matter (SPM) is increasing in Delhi and other metro cities of the country due to pollution;
- (b) if so, the ill effects of SPM on health of human beings;
- (c) the extent to which it has increased during the last decade;
- (d) the measures taken by the Government to reduce it;
- (e) whether the factors responsible for generating pollution have been identified; and
- (f) if so, the details thereof and the action taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

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

(a) to (c): The National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS) were revisited and notified in November, 2009. In line with international scenario, the earlier listed pollutant 'Suspended Particulate Matter' (SPM), has been withdrawn from the list of notified pollutants. Instead PM10 (particles having aerodynamic diameter less than or, equal to 10 micron) has been included in NAAQS-2009 apart from PM2.5. The monitoring of pollutant 'SPM' has been discontinued across the nation including Delhi and other metro cities after NAAQS-2009. As far as, earlier data on SPM is concerned, a mixed trend was observed and it has exceeded the notified standards in a number of cities including Delhi.

(d) to (f): According to some epidemiological studies, health effects such as manifestation of respiratory and cardiovascular ailments etc. could be associated with air pollution. However, there is no conclusive data available to confirm these findings.

Emissions from vehicles, suspended roadside dust, industries, thermal power plants, construction activities etc. are the main source of air pollution. Steps taken by the Central Government for control air 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 and bio-medical wastes, promotion of cleaner technologies, strengthening the network of air quality monitoring stations, assessment of pollution load, source apportionment studies, preparation and implementation of action plans for major cities & critically polluted areas, public awareness etc.