

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3433
ANSWERED ON:18.03.2013
CAUSES OF SMOG
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Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has taken cognisance of the increased smog in National Capital Region during the beginning of the winter season of previous year;
- (b) if so, the details thereof including the causes of the smog; and
- (c) the steps taken by the Government to reduce smog and pollution spread over the National Capital Region?

Answer

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

(a) & (b).As reported by India Meteorological Department (IMD), an air pollution episode has been observed in Delhi in the beginning of winter season of 2012. Reportedly, it occurred due to short range transport of smoke by burning of crop remnants by farmers in Haryana and Punjab added with highly stable meteorological conditions in Delhi. Burning of post harvested residual stalks is practiced by some farmers in certain areas for preparing the fields for sowing their next crop, where rice -wheat cropping pattern is followed.

(c).The Central Government through Ministry of Agriculture has issued an advisory in December, 2009 to all state governments and UT administrations to advise and educate farmers to curb the practice of burning crop remnants. Government of Haryana has issued a notification to prohibit the burning of crop remnants. The Government of Punjab earlier constituted a 'Task Force' in the matter to prevent indiscriminate burning of crop remnants.