

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4455

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INCREASE IN GREEN COVER

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

(a) whether loss of green cover area, increase in number of vehicles registered and solid waste generation has resulted in increase in pollution level in metropolitan cities;

(b) if so, the details thereof, metropolitan city-wise; and

(c) the steps taken/being taken by the Government to increase green cover area and reduce the pollution level in metropolitan cities?

Answer

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

(a) & (b) The increasing trends in pollution level in metro-politan cities is attributed to rising number of vehicles, solid waste generation, and loss of green cover areas apart from rapid urbanization, infrastructure development, change in life style, indoor pollution etc.

The data available in respect of increase in number of vehicles registered during 2002-2011 indicating the increase of trends from 55.55 % to 318.23 % in the cities namely Bengaluru (225.6 %), Bhopal (226.72 %),Chennai (254.8 %),Coimbatore (277.00 %),Delhi (195.40 %), Greater Mumbai (175.00 %), Hyderabad (244.39 %), Indore (220.50 %), Jaipur (244.44 %), Kanpur (260.20 %), Kochi (269.00 %),Kolkata (55.55 %), Lucknow (217.80 %), Madurai (251.25 %), Nagpur (252.06 %), Patna (210.26 %), Pune (318.23 %), Varanasi (158.70 %) and Visakhapatnam (169.50 %).

The data available in respect of solid waste generation during 1999-2011 indicate increasing trends from 109.22 % to 268.19 % in the cities namely Ahmedabad (136.66 %), Bengaluru (185.00 %), Chennai (144.04 %), Coimbatore (200.00 %), Delhi (170.00 %), Hyderabad 268.19 %), Indore (205.71 %),Kanpur (133.33 %),Lucknow (118.81%),Ludhiana (212.50 %),Madurai (121.62 %), Mumbai (121.38 %),Nagpur (146.72 %),Pune (185.71 %),Surat (133.33 %), Vadodara (150 %),Varanasi (109.22 %) and Visakhapatnam (111.33 %). However, the decreasing of trends observed from 43.22% to 99.40 % in the cities namely Bhopal (64.10%), Jaipur (53.44%), Kochi (43.22%), Kolkata (99.40%) and Patna (66.66%).

The data in respect of metropolitan cities for loss of green cover area is not available. However, as per India State of Forest Report 2011, the forest and tree cover of the country is 78.29 million hectare, which is 23.81 % of the geographical area. This include 2.76 % of tree cover. In comparison to the 2009 assessment, after taking into account the interpretational changes, there is a decrease of 367 square km in country's forest cover. 15 states have registered aggregate increase of 5000sqkm in their forest cover with Punjab leading with increase of 100sqkm. 12 states/Union Territories (mainly the North Eastern states) have shown decrease to the extent of 867sqkm.

(c) Various steps taken to increase forest and tree cover in the country including metropolitan cities includes: -

(i) XIIIth Finance Commission has recommended Rs.5000 crore for five years starting from 2010-11 for conservation and development of forests. Tree planting is also an approved activity under The Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA), Integrated Watershed Management Programme (IWMP) and other schemes of Central and State Governments.

(ii) Further, the following steps taken by the Government to control air pollution in the country including National Capital Region (NCR) and metro-cities inter alia include:

Bharat stage-IV emission norms have been implemented in 13 mega cities including NCR for new 4-wheelers from 2010.

Mass emission standards (Bharat Stage III) have been notified for two, three wheelers and diesel driven agricultural tractors from April 1, 2010 throughout the country.

Stringent Emission Standards have been implemented to regulate emissions from in-use vehicles from October 2004.

Supply of improved diesel and gasoline.

Operating Compressed Natural Gas (CNG) mode public transport in Delhi.

Introduction of metro in Delhi to promote use of mass public transport system.

A mutually time targeted programme is implemented under Corporate Responsibility for Environment Protection (CREP).

Special drives for prevention and control of pollution in 17 categories of highly polluted industries.

(iii) The Ministry of Environment and Forests (MoEF) has notified the Municipal Solid Wastes (Management and Handling) Rules in 2000 wherein every municipal authority is responsible for collection, segregation, storage, transportation, processing and disposal of municipal solid waste in the country. Municipal authorities are also required to set up waste processing and disposal facilities. State Pollution Control Boards/Committees are responsible for giving authorization for storage, treatment and disposal facilities for municipal solid waste and monitoring of environmental standards around such facilities