GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:14
ANSWERED ON:05.08.2013
OUTDOOR AIR POLLUTION
Bhoi Shri Sanjay;Singh Shri Yashvir

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

(a) whether according to a latest WorldBank Report, outdoor air pollution in urbanareas claims lakhs of lives of adults andchildren annually besides causing adverseeffect on the economy;

(b) if so, the details of the report and the likely impact on the Indian economythereof;

(c) whether the Government has examined the report;

(d) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto; and

(e) the steps taken/being taken by the Government to bring down outdoor air pollution in urban areas?

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 REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 14 DUE FOR REPLY ON 05.08.2013 RAISED BY SHRI SANJAY BHOI AND SHRI YASHVIR SINGH REGARDING 'OUTDOOR AIR POLLUTION'.

(a) to (b). The World Bank has recently published a report titled Diagnostic Assessment of select Environmental Challenges (three volumes). The report provides estimates of social and financial cost of environmental damage in India considering urban air pollution/outdoor air pollution, indoor air pollution inadequate water supply, sanitation, etc. The estimates mentioned in the report are indicative rather than conclusive. Besides, World Bank has analysed the ambient air quality data only for the year 2008, collated and complied by Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB). No study on pollution related mortality has been conducted by World Bank or, CPCB in the country. World Bank has drawn its estimates without a study on pollution related mortality.

All figures in estimates are for 2009 values or as close to that year. The report has a mention that the exercise conducted here has a great deal of uncertainty, including that arising from limitations of data on social costs, from methods used to estimate the effects of pollution and resource degradation on indicators of health or output, i.e. the concentration-response functions, and from the transfer of some unit values from studies outside of India. The report has mentioned the impact on GDP growth rate is almost negligible when compared to business as usual scenario.

(c) & (d) The report has been examined. It is based on secondary data. It does not represent the view of the Government.

(e) The Government have taken various steps including formulation of action plans to contain outdoor air pollution in urban areas and which , inter alia, include:

(i) Notification of emission standards for various categories of industries, under the Environment (Protection) Rules, 1986;

(ii) Implementation of action plans for improvement of the ambient air quality in 16 apart from Delhi;

(iii) Introduction of cleaner fuels(B.S. III/IV) as per the Auto Fuel Policy;

(iv) Introduction of gaseous fuel in select cities and towns;

(v) Sale and registration of B.S. IV complaint passenger cars in selected metropolitan cities and towns apart from National Capital Region;

(vi) Use of beneficiated coal for coal based thermal power plants;

(vii) Enforcement of stringent 'Pollution Under Control (PUC)' certificate scheme to check exhaust emissions from in-use vehicles;

(viii) Implementation of stringent emission norms for generator sets;

(ix) Source Apportionment Studies undertaken in six metro cities;

(x) Implementation of the recommendations of the Charter on Corporate Responsibility for Environment Protection (CREP) for seventeen categories of air polluting industries;

(xi) Notification of National Ambient Air Quality Standards (November, 2009).

(xii) Strengthening of National Ambient Air Quality Monitoring Network;

(xiii) Inspection and monitoring of air pollution industries for compliance of the emission norms; and

(xiv) Strengthening of public transport including establishment of metro rail in a few select metropolitan cities.