

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:9
ANSWERED ON:05.08.2013
AIR POLLUTION IN RURAL AREAS
Agarwal Shri Jai Prakash

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

- (a) whether the air pollution is rising in the rural areas due to extension of industries;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether any study has been conducted regarding impact of air pollution in rural areas;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government for creating awareness among people for rural areas regarding air pollution?

Answer

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

(a) to (e): According to the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB), it has not carried out any specific study on increasing air pollution due to expansion of industries in rural areas. However, the level of air pollution, particularly in terms of PM10 (particulate matter having size less than 10 micron) in ambient air, is showing an increasing trend in many areas in the country. This is due to industrialization including expansion of existing industries as well as rise in population, increasing number of vehicles and gensets, rapid urbanization, construction activities and agricultural practices including burning of post-harvest residual stalks. The public awareness on air pollution control is created through electronic and print media from time to time.