

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

STARRED QUESTION NO:295

ANSWERED ON:09.12.2009

POLLUTION IN METRO CITIES

Mahajan Smt. Sumitra;Rajaram Shri Wakchaure Bhausahab

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

- (a) whether the Government has conducted any survey on the present level of air pollution in metropolitan cities in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof, metro-wise;
- (c) whether the Government proposes to set a uniform limit for pollution across the country;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the action plan of the Government in this regard?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) FOR ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH)

(a) to (e) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARAS (a) TO (e) OF THE LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO.295 for 09-12-2009 REGARDING Pollution in Metro Cities By SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN AND SHRI WAKCHAURE BHAUSAHEB RAJARAM.

(a) & (b) The Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) is monitoring ambient air quality at 363 manual stations covering 139 cities, towns and industrial areas in the country which include 84 stations in 35 metro cities. Three major parameters, namely, Sulphur Dioxide (SO₂), Nitrogen Dioxide (NO₂) and Particulate Matter or fine dust (PM₁₀) are monitored under National Air Monitoring Programme(NAMP).

The analysis of data under NAMP for the last 03 years against the revised National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS),2009 indicates that the levels (annual average) of SO₂ are within the prescribed norms in all 35 metro cities. The levels (annual average) of NO₂ are also within the notified norms except in 07 metro cities, namely, Asansol, Dhanbad, Jamshedpur, Kolkata, Delhi, Patna and Pune. However, fine particulate matter (PM₁₀) levels (annual average) are complying with the norms only in 04 metro cities, i.e., Chennai, Coimbatore, Kochi and Madurai. Air quality data for last 03 years for these 35 metro cities is annexed at Annexure-1.

(c) & (d) The Government has recently revised NAAQS and limits for 12 pollutants have been notified. Area classification based on land-use has been done away with so that there are uniform ambient air quality norms for residential and industrial areas. Five new parameters have been included for ambient air quality assessment which include Ozone, Benzene, Benzo(a) Pyrene, Arsenic and Nickel. In addition, PM_{2.5} (particulate matter having size less than 2.5 micron) has replaced the parameter for suspended particulate matter (SPM).

(e) Various steps taken by the Government to reduce air pollution in the metro cities are as follows:

- i. Bharat Stage (BS) III emission norms for passenger cars and BS II norms for two wheelers in ten metro cities, namely, , Mumbai, Kolkata, Chennai, Bangalore, Ahmedabad, Hyderabad & Secunderabad, Kanpur, Pune, Surat and Agra apart from National Capital Region are implemented since 01-04-2005.
- ii. BS IV emission norms for passenger cars and B.S. III for two wheelers in above 10 metro cities apart from National Capital Region have been notified with effect from 01-04-2010.
- iii. Stricter pollution under control (PUC) norms for in-use vehicles have been implemented with effect from 01-10-2004.
- iv. The emission standards for industries have been notified under the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986.
- v. Use of beneficiated coal in thermal power plants is in vogue.
- vi. Action-plans for 24 Critically Polluted Areas are under implementation.

- vii. Fuel quality in accordance with the roadmap of Auto Fuel Policy has been ensured across the country.
- viii. Mass rapid transport system (MRTS) including Metro has been introduced in select metro cities in the country.
- ix. Infrastructure related to construction of flyovers, bridges and roads, to reduce congestion, has been augmented.