

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1858  
ANSWERED ON:19.08.2013  
NITROGEN LEVEL IN METRO CITIES  
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**Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:**

- (a) whether the Government proposes to conduct study for analyzing the reasons for growth in nitrogen level in Delhi and other metro-cities;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the names of cities which are facing this problem at present; and
- (d) the action taken/proposed to be taken in this regard?

**Answer**

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

(a) to (c). The level of pollution in ambient air is regularly monitored in 234 cities, towns and industrial areas across the country by the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) in association with State Pollution Control Boards, Pollution Control Committees for Union Territories and National Environment Engineering Research Institute, Nagpur under National Air Quality Monitoring Programme (NAMP) for Sulphur Dioxide, Nitrogen Dioxide (NO<sub>2</sub>) and Particulate Matter (PM<sub>10</sub>).

CPCB has not undertaken any study for ascertaining the reasons for rise in level of NO<sub>2</sub> in Delhi. However, of late, an increasing trend in the levels of NO<sub>2</sub> is being observed. Air quality data for the year 2011 reveals that the annual average of NO<sub>2</sub> have exceeded the limit of 40 microgramme per cubic metre in eight cities namely, Asansol, Delhi, Jamshedpur, Kolkata, Meerut, Faridabad, Pune and Raipur.

(d). The steps taken by the Government to contain pollution in the cities include, inter-alia, strengthening of public transport, supply of cleaner fuel as per Auto Fuel Policy, use of beneficiated coal in thermal power plants, more stringent, mass emission norms for new vehicles in select cities, 'Pollution Under Control' certificate system for in-use vehicles, strict implementation of emission and effluent norms in air and water polluting industries. In addition, city-specific Ambient Air Quality Improvement Programme for 17 identified cities is implemented by concerned authority.