

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1958

ANSWERED ON:19.08.2013

ACTION PLAN ON AIR POLLUTION

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

- (a) whether the Government has conducted any study to assess pollution level and its impact on citizens in Delhi and other metro-cities/towns of the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise along with the details of funds allocated to the State Governments in this regard;
- (c) whether many diseases are spreading in the country due to pollution;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the action taken by the Government to check the pollution and prevention of diseases caused thereby along with the details thereof?

**Answer**

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

(a)& (b). The levels of pollution in ambient air are regularly monitored by the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) in collaboration with State Pollution Control Boards (SPCBs), pollution control committees for UTs in terms of Sulphur Dioxide, Nitrogen Dioxide and PM10 (particulate matter having size equal to or less than 10 micron) in 234 cities, towns and industrial areas across the country. The Ministry of Environment and Forests or CPCB has not conducted any direct study on pollution related health impact.

However, CPCB sponsored three epidemiological projects (2 in urban areas and 1 in rural areas) to Chittaranjan National Cancer Institute, Kolkata. The findings of the study indicate several pulmonary and systematic change, altered immunity and damage to chromosomes and DNA and other health impairments associated with cumulative exposure to high level of particulate pollution which may increase the risk of various diseases including cardiovascular and cancer. CPCB has not allocated funds to carry out studies on health impacts. However, funds are reimbursed to SPCBs through CPCB for carrying out ambient air quality assessment.

(c) to (d). No conclusive studies are available indicating spreading of many diseases due to pollution.

(e). The Government have taken various steps to contain air pollution and for prevention of diseases caused thereby which, inter-alia, include strengthening of public transport, supply of cleaner fuel as per Auto Fuel Policy, use of beneficiate coal in thermal power plants, more stringent mass emission norms (BS IV/BS III) for new vehicles in select cities, 'Pollution Under Control' certificate system for in-use vehicles, strict implementation of emission norms in air polluting industries. In addition, city-specific ambient air quality improvement programme for 17 identified cities and area specific action plan for 43 critically polluted areas are implemented by concerned authority.