

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:534

ANSWERED ON:09.12.2013

CHECK ON POLLUTION SMOG IN METROPOLITAN CITIES .

Aaron Rashid Shri J.M.;Agarwal Shri Jai Prakash;Bhadana Shri Avtar Singh;Bundela Shri Jeetendra Singh;Hussain Shri Syed Shahnawaz;Maadam Shri Vikrambhai Arjanbhai;Patil Shri A.T. Nana;Patle Kamla Devi ;Reddy Shri Modugula Venugopala ;Sayeed Muhammed Hamdulla A. B. ;Siddeswara Shri Gowdar Mallikarjunappa;Singh Shri N.Dharam

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

- (a) whether the Government has conducted any study to assess the impact of growing air pollution on health of the citizens of metropolitan/non-metropolitan cities and rural areas of the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether due to increasing pollution the people are facing many health problems like respiratory diseases, heart attack and cancer and if so, the steps taken by the Government to improve the air quality;
- (d) whether the Government has any proposal to prescribe any uniform pollution limit across the country as per the standards of World Health Organisation; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof along with the measures taken by the Government to achieve the target?

**Answer**

MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) FOR ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS

(SHRIMATI JAYANTHI NATARAJAN)

(a) to (e): 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 pollutants have been included for ambient air quality assessment which include Ozone, Benzene, Benzo(a) Pyrene, Arsenic and Nickel. In addition, PM<sub>2.5</sub> (particulate matter having size less than 2.5 micron) has replaced the parameter for suspended particulate matter (SPM).

As per available literature, (PM<sub>2.5</sub>) may cause respiratory ailments, including cancer, and heart disease. A few reports published by various institutions refer to other studies. These results are indicative rather than conclusive. However, no conclusive study reports are available in this regard.

Emissions from vehicles, suspended roadside dust, industries, thermal power plants, construction activities etc. are the main source of air pollution. Steps taken by the Central Government for control of air pollution include formulation of a Comprehensive Policy for Abatement of Pollution, supply of improved auto-fuel, tightening of vehicular and industrial emission norms, mandatory environmental clearance for specified industries, management of municipal, hazardous & bio-medical wastes, promotion of cleaner technologies, strengthening the network of air quality monitoring stations, assessment of pollution load, sources apportionment studies, preparation and implementation of action plans for major cities & critically polluted areas, public awareness etc.