

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

STARRED QUESTION NO:391
ANSWERED ON:16.12.2009
NEW AIR QUALITY STANDARDS
Jindal Shri Naveen;Ray Shri Rudramadhab

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

- (a) whether the Ministry has recently notified new air quality standards on par with European Union for residential and industrial areas in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government has also included six new pollutants which were not measured earlier;
- (d) if so, the details of such pollutants;
- (e) the number of major air pollution defaulters who have been penalised during each of the last three years and the current year, State-wise; and
- (f) the effective measures proposed to be taken by the Government to enforce and monitor the new air quality standard norms?

Answer

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

(a) to (f). A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARA (a) to (f) OF LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 391 for 16.12.2009 REGARDING New Air Quality Standards By SHRI RUDRA MADHAB RAY AND SHRI NAVEEN JINDAL.

(a)&(b) Yes, Sir. The Government has recently revised the National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS) and limits for 12 pollutants have been notified (copy of NAAQS at Annexure-I). Area classification based on land-use has been done away with so that industrial areas have to conform to the same standards as those for residential areas. The annual average norms for Lead, Nitrogen Dioxide (NO₂), Arsenic, Nickel, Benzene and Benzo (a) Pyrene in ambient air are at par with the European Union (EU) norms. However, the norms for Particulate Matter having size less than 10 micron (PM₁₀) and Particulate Matter having size less than 2.5 micron (PM_{2.5}) are more relaxed than EU norms. Indian norms for Carbon Monoxide, Ozone and Sulphur Dioxide (SO₂) are more stringent than EU norms. Ammonia is additionally included in our NAAQS.

(c)&(d) Yes, Sir. Six new pollutants have been included for ambient air quality monitoring which include Ozone, Benzene, Benzo (a) Pyrene, Arsenic, Nickel and PM_{2.5}.

(e) Under the Environment Surveillance Programme, Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) undertakes inspection of various industrial units under the 17 categories of highly polluting industries to verify compliance to the prescribed standards. Based on the level of non-compliance observed, directions are issued to the concerned State Pollution Control Boards under section 18(l)(b) of The Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974 and/ or The Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1981 as the case may be, and directly to the industries under section 5 of The Environment (Protection) Act, 1986. Such actions have been taken against major defaulters in sectors like Thermal Power, Cement, Fertilizers, etc. by the CPCB. A state wise list in this respect for the last three years and the current year is annexed (Annexure-II).

(f) The CPCB has undertaken the task of development of monitoring protocols and the infrastructure needed for monitoring and enforcement of the new ambient air quality norms.