

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
ENVIRONMENT, FORESTS AND CLIMATE CHANGE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:5594
ANSWERED ON:28.04.2015
IMPACT OF POLLUTION ON HEALTH
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Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT, FORESTS AND CLIMATE CHANGE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether degradation of environment and increasing air, water and noise pollution especially in metro cities are major causes of health problems and if so, the details thereof;
- (b) whether any study has been conducted in this regard;
- (c) if so, the details and outcome thereof; and
- (d) the action taken for consultation/ collective efforts with the State Governments in this regard?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) FOR ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE (SHRI PRAKASH JAVADEKAR)

(a) Environmental quality particularly Ambient Air and Water quality in metro cities are found deterioration due to various anthropogenic and other factors are causing health problem. Ambient air quality data of 46 million plus cities annexed are Annexure-I which shows that most of the cities are non-compliant in term of PM10 (dust particles).

Real time noise level data collected during 2014 from the National Ambient Noise Monitoring Network comprising of stations located in 07 metropolitan cities i.e. in Mumbai, Delhi, Kolkata, Chennai, Bangalore, Lucknow and Hyderabad (five stations in each). Nearly all the stations had values exceeding the prescribed noise standards.

CPCB is monitoring water quality of aquatic resources at 2500 stations in 29 States and 6 Union Territories spread over the country. The pollution in rivers is increasing due to rapid industrialization and urbanization and resultant wastewater generation. CPCB has identified 302 highly polluted river stretches in country for priority action to mitigate pollution.

(b)&(c) To assess the long term impact of air pollution on human health, Central Pollution Control Board had sponsored two following epidemiological studies in Delhi:

1. Epidemiological Study on Effect of Air Pollution on Human Health (adults) in Delhi' carried out during 2002–2005
2. 'Study on Ambient Air Quality, Respiratory Symptoms and Lung Function of Children in Delhi' carried out during 2003–2005 and

The above studies by CPCB assessed the Morbidity aspects (the incidence rate, or the prevalence of a disease or medical condition) and not Mortality aspects (people dying during a given time interval) as a result of exposure to pollutants. The above studies indicate several pulmonary and systemic changes, altered immunity and damage to chromosomes and DNA and other health impairments associated with cumulative exposure to high level of particulate pollution that increases the risk of various diseases including respiratory and cardiovascular diseases.

(d) The following steps taken by Central Government and State Government to mitigate pollution in cities/ towns:

(i) Air pollution:

Notification of National Ambient Air Quality Standards 2009, envisaging 12 pollutants;

Setting up of monitoring network for assessment of ambient air quality;

Execution of source apportionment studies in select cities and formulation of action plans for air quality in cities;

Implementation of Bharat Stage IV norms in the 38 selected cities and Bharat Stage III norms in rest of the country;

Introduction of cleaner/alternate fuel like CNG, LPG etc. and promotion of public transport network including Metro.

Creation of infrastructure for industrial pollution control incorporating cleaner production processes, setting up of common pollution

control facilities and notification of environment norms.

(II) Noise pollution:

All the concerned SPCBs and States have been provided data and requested to take necessary action for and remedial measures to control Noise Pollution as per Noise Rules, 2000.

Advisories are also issued by the Central Government for minimization noise during Deepawali festival.

Press Release on Noise Pollution Level is issued every year on the occasion of Deepawali (available on website of CPCB) and Data is made available on public demand as well as website of CPCB.

(III) Water pollution:

Govt of India have formulated river action plans to restore water quality of rivers to intercept, divert and treatment of municipal wastewater from urban centres which is not been able to adequately handle the complete sewage treatment.

CPCB in association with SPCBs, made a comprehensive programme to ensure compliance of the effluent discharge norms and initiate action against the defaulting.

Industrial clusters have been identified as critical areas for which action plans have been formulated for abatement & control of pollution.

Industry specific measures such as implementation of Zero liquid discharge, setting up of Online Monitoring System and Bio-remediation of drains discharging in rivers and streams are also being implemented.

Under Water (Prevention & Control of Pollution) Act, 1974, directions are being issued to SPCBs. SPCBs shall further issue directions to local/urban bodies for mandatory Sewage treatment Plants of adequate capacity for treatment and disposal of sewage.