

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2390

ANSWERED ON:04.08.2015

Burden of Environmental Pollution

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

- (a) whether the Government is aware that the economically weaker sections in urban areas face a disproportionate burden of environmental pollution;
- (b) if so, the details of the initiatives taken by the Government to address this problem;
- (c) whether the Government plans to set up a separate unit for respiratory health at its medical centres to ensure that children from economically weaker sections can be tested by spirometers and trained technicians; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

**Answer**

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

(SHRI PRAKASH JAVADEKAR)

(a) Environmental pollution irrespective of economic status affects human population. However, the economically weaker sections in urban areas due to variety of reasons face disproportionate burden of pollution.

(b) The action taken to minimize the impact of environmental pollution includes:

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

â€¢ Formulation of regulations/statutes;

â€¢ Setting up of monitoring network for assessment of ambient air quality;

â€¢ Introduction of cleaner/alternate fuels and promotion of public transport network;

â€¢ Creation of infrastructure for pollution control;

â€¢ Promotion of cleaner production processes, setting up of common pollution control facilities etc.;

The Government, after realizing the gravity of pollution, has also taken more concrete measures as depicted below,:

â€¢ Clean India Mission (Swatch Bharat Abhiyan) launched on 2nd October, 2014;

â€¢ Draft Rules for handling and management of municipal waste have been notified for comments of stakeholders.

â€¢ Standards for sewage treatment plants notified for comments of stakeholders.

â€¢ Implementation of Bharat Stage IV norms in the 63 selected cities and Bharat Stage III norms in rest of the country;

â€¢ National Air Quality index launched by the Prime Minister in April, 2015 starting with 10 cities;

â€¢ Banning of burning of leaves/ biomass;

â€¢ Relevant draft rules, including those pertaining to construction and demolition waste notified;

â€¢ Co-ordination meetings held at official and ministerial level with Delhi and other State Governments within the National Capital Region (NCR);

â€¢ Short-term plan has been reviewed and long-term plans have been formulated by states to mitigate pollution in NCR;

â€¢ Stringent industrial standards have been formulated and notified for public/stakeholder's comments;

â€¢ Government is giving high priority for public partnership in lane discipline, car pooling, vehicle maintenance, pollution under control certification, idling of vehicles etc.

â€¢ Out of 2800 major industries, 920 industries have installed on-line continuous (24X7) monitoring devices; others are in process of installing.

(c) & (d) The facilities in Government medical centres are available to all sections of society including economically weaker sections.

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