

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3818  
ANSWERED ON:16.12.2014  
AIR POLLUTION LEVEL  
Kamaraaj Dr. K.;Sanjar Shri Alok

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

- (a) the air quality and pollution levels in the metropolitan and urban cities in the country including Bangalaoe and Hyderabad;
- (b) whether the Government has conducted any epidemiological study on air pollution in the country and if so, the details and findings thereof;
- (c) the reaction of the Government thereto; and
- (d) the comprehensive measures being taken by the Government to contain air pollution and improve the ambient air quality in the metropolitan and urban cities of the country?

**Answer**

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

(a). The ambient air quality is monitored by the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) in association with various State Pollution Control Boards (SPCBs) / Pollution Control Committees (PCCs) for UTs and NEERI in metropolitan and urban cities in the country including Bangalore and Hyderabad in respect of Sulphur Dioxide (SO<sub>2</sub>), Nitrogen Dioxide (NO<sub>2</sub>) and Particulate Matter less than or equal to 10 micron (PM<sub>10</sub>). As per analysis of data for the year 2012, air quality in respect of SO<sub>2</sub> (annual average) exceeded the norms in Dombivali (50 Åµg/m<sup>3</sup>) and Dehradun (20 Åµg/m<sup>3</sup>Å¬). However, annual average levels of NO<sub>2</sub> (40Åµg/m<sup>3</sup>) exceeded in 13 cities and towns excluding Bangalore and Hyderabad whereas, levels of PM<sub>10</sub> (annual average - 60Åµg/m<sup>3</sup>) exceeded in 137 cities and towns including Bangalore and Hyderabad, out of 175 monitored.

(b)&(c). CPCB had sponsored 3 epidemiological studies (two in urban areas and one in rural areas) to Chittaranjan National Cancer Institute, Kolkata. The findings of the studies indicate several pulmonary and systematic changes, altered immunity and damage to chromosomes and DNA and other health impairments associated with cumulative exposure to high level of particulate pollution which may aggravates/ increase the risk of various diseases including pulmonary cardiovascular and cancer but, it is not the only cause of aforesaid diseases.

(d) The Government has taken various measures to contain air pollution in metropolitan and urban cities which interalia includes, supply of cleaner fuels as per Auto Fuel Policy, use of gaseous fuel for public transport in select cities, pollution under control (PUC) certificate system for in-use vehicles, stringent source specific emission standards and their compliance, use of beneficiated coal in thermal power plants, strengthening public transport, expansion of metro train system, implementation of revised emission norms for gensets, implementation of city specific action plan in 16 cities, etc.