

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 135
TO BE ANSWERED ON 15.12.2017

Increase in Pollution Level

135. SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA:
SHRI KAMAL NATH:
SHRIMATI ANJU BALA:
SHRI B. SRIRAMULU:
SHRI TEJ PRATAP SINGH YADAV:

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

- (a) whether keeping in view the life threatening high pollution level in Delhi and in adjoining National Capital Region (NCR), the National Human Rights Commission has sought details from the concerned States about effective steps being taken to tackle the situation;
- (b) if so, the details of reports sent by the Union Environment Ministry and State Environment authorities of the concerned States to NHRC;
- (c) whether the Union Government/ Central Pollution Control Board have taken any effective steps to protect the citizens in Delhi and NCR from the endangered level of pollution, if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor;
- (d) whether the high level Committee set up by the Union Government to propose and monitor solutions to air pollution which has reached at a dangerous level has since submitted its report;
- (e) if so, the details thereof and action contemplated by the Union Government thereon; and
- (f) whether the Government is aware of the study conducted by Energy Policy Institute, Chicago University which suggest most cities in the Indo-Gangetic plain need emergency measures immediately to bring down annual average Particulate Matter 2.5 levels and if so, the details thereof and the Government's reaction thereto?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE
(DR. MAHESH SHARMA)

(a) to (f) The National Human Right Commission (NHRC) had sought details from the concerned states about the effective steps being taken to tackle higher pollution level in Delhi and NCR. The information has been submitted by Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change to the NHRC on 1.12.2017. The details are enclosed at Annexure. CPCB continuously monitors air quality through 691 manual stations under National Air Monitoring Programme (NAMP). The available data shows that Indo-Gangetic plains have higher level of Particulate Matter, which is consistent with the study of Energy Policy Institute, Chicago University. Government has issued necessary directions to the non- attainment cities for abatement of pollution in the said region.

ANNEXURE REFERRED IN REPLY TO THE LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 135 DUE FOR ANSWER ON 15.12.2017 REGARDING "INCREASE IN POLLUTION LEVEL" RAISED BY SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M.SCINDIA: SHRI KAMAL NATH: SHRIMATI ANJU BALA: SHRI B. SRIRAMULU: SHRI TEJ PRATAP SINGH YADAV, HON'BLE MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT

MAJOR INITIATIVES OF THE GOVERNMENT TO ADDRESS THE ISSUES OF AIR POLLUTION

- (i) A Task Force has been Setup under the chairmanship of Principal Secretary to Prime Minister to tackle the issue of air pollution in Delhi-NCR. This Task Force has Cabinet Secretary and Secretaries of relevant Ministries as members. The first meeting of the Task Force Committee was held on 4/12/2017. The Task Force has set up a sub-committee headed by Secretary, Ministry of Road Transport and Highways, to come up with an action plan to tackle the issue of stubble burning. The sub-committee is deliberating on this matter and is likely to give its report shortly.
- (ii) A Graded Response Action Plan (GRAP) for control of air pollution in Delhi and NCR region has been notified. This plan specifies actions required for controlling particulate matter (PM emissions from various sources and prevent PM₁₀ and PM_{2.5} levels to go beyond 'moderate' national Air Quality Index (AQI) category.
- (iii) Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) has issued a comprehensive set of directions under section 18 (1) (b) of Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1986 for implementation of 42 measures to mitigate air pollution in major cities including Delhi and NCR comprising of action points to counter air pollution in major cities.
- (iv) National Ambient Air Quality Standards envisaging 12 pollutants have been notified under Environmental (Protection) Act, 1986 and also notified 115 emission/effluent standards for 104 different sectors of industries, besides 32 general standards for ambient air.
- (v) The air quality in the country is assessed under National Air Quality Monitoring Programme (NAMP) through a network comprising of 680 operating manual monitoring stations located in 300 cities/towns all across the country and 82 Continuous Ambient Air Quality Monitoring (CAAQM) stations.
- (vi) National Air Quality index (AQI) was launched by the Prime Minister in April, 2015 starting with 14 cities and now extended to 40 cities.
- (vii) Bharat Stage IV (BS-IV) norms has been launched for mandatory implementation since 1st April 2017 and leap-frogging to BS- VI by 1st April, 2020 has been proposed by Government to mitigate pollution from vehicular emission.
- (viii) Ban on burning of leaves, biomass, municipal solid waste has been imposed;

- (ix) Installation of on-line continuous (24x7) monitoring devices by 17 major polluting industries have been made mandatory.
- (x) Advisories were issued for ban on bursting of sound emitting crackers between 10:00 PM to 6:00 AM
- (xi) Regular co-ordination meetings were held in the Ministry this year at official and ministerial level with Delhi and other State Governments within the NCR to avoid the emergency situation.
- (xii) In order to involve people in the effort, Government had launched a campaign called ‘Harit Diwali and Swasth Diwali’ involving over 2000 schools in Delhi and over two lakh schools in the country. The Government had also organised a Mini Marathon for ‘Swachh Hawa for Swachh and Swasth Bharat’ on 15th October 2017 at India Gate in which nearly 15,000 school children had participated.**
- (xiii) As part of Clean Air Initiative of CII-NITI Aayog, a Task Force was constituted under the chairmanship of Additional Secretary, MoEF&CC. As part of the Task Force on the basis various meetings and consultation, this Ministry has come up with report on ‘Action Plan for Biomass Management’, which has detailed out the financial and technological mechanism for addressing the issue of crop residue burning.
- (xiv) CPCB has taken a number of Proactive steps to help improve ground implementation
- **40 CPCB teams deployed for ground feedback on air polluting activities in Delhi – September 01, 2017 onwards**
 - **Field visit to four pollution hotspots (Anand Vihar, ITO, Punjabi Bagh and DTU) and suggested interventions – July 2017**
 - On the spot reporting to DPCC, and weekly summary reports to Delhi Govt.
