OIH

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION No. 98
TO BE ANSWERED ON 29.11.2021

Air Pollution in Metropolitan Cities

98. SHRIMATI RATHVA GITABEN VAJESINGBHAI:
SHRI RANJEETSINGH HINDURAO NAIK NIMBALKAR:
SHRI ADHIKARI DEEPAK (DEV):
SHRI MALOOK NAGAR

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

(a) whether the Government is aware that the problem of air pollution in metropolitan cities of the country has become worse, if so, the details of increasing pollution level in various metropolitan cities in the country especially in Delhi;
(b) whether the Government is aware of the causes of air pollution, if so, the details thereof;
(c) the problems being faced due to air pollution especially in Delhi;
(d) the efforts made by the Government during the last three years to identify the causes and to reduce air pollution along with the details thereof;
(e) the number of deaths due to air pollution during the last two years; and
(f) whether it is a fact that India suffers loss of millions of dollars every year due to deteriorating public health due to air pollution and if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE
(SHRI ASHWINI KUMAR CHOUBEY)

(a) Ambient air quality data in 96 cities showed a decreasing trend of PM10 whereas36 cities showed an increasing trend of PM10 concentration in 2020-2021 as compared to 2019-2020. 18 cities were found to be within the prescribed National Ambient Air Quality Standard (PM10 less than 60 µg/m3) in 2019-20 which has increased to 27 in year 2020-21. In the year 2020, in Delhi, the number of 'Good', 'Satisfactory' and 'Moderate' days increased to 227 against 108 in 2016.

(b) to (d)

A study "Source Apportionment of $PM_{2.5}$& PM_{10} of Delhi NCR for Identification of Major Sources" conducted by The Automotive Research Association of India (ARAI), Pune, India; and The Energy and Resources Institute (TERI), New Delhi in 2018 reveals that

average sectoral contributions in $PM_{2.5}$ and PM_{10} concentration in Delhi estimated during winters and summers are as follows:

	$PM_{2.5}$		**PM_{10}**	
Sectors	**Winter**	**Summer**	**Winter**	**Summer**
Residential	10%	8%	9%	8%
Agri. Burning	4%	7%	4%	7%
Industry	30%	22%	27%	22%
Dust (Soil, road and cont.)	17%	38%	25%	42%
Transport	28%	17%	24%	15%
Others	11%	8%	10%	7%

Further, several steps taken by the Government to improve the air quality in Delhi-NCR is at Annexure.

(e) and (f)

There is no conclusive data available to establish a direct correlation of death/disease exclusively due to air pollution. Air pollution is one of the many factors affecting respiratory ailments and associated diseases. Health is impacted by a number of factors which includes food habits, occupational habits, socio-economic status, medical history, immunity, heredity, etc. of the individuals apart from the environment.

***

ANNEXURE

Vehicular Emission

- Leapfrogging from BS-IV to BS-VI norms for fuel and vehicles since April, 2020.
- Network of metro rails for public transport are enhanced and more cities are covered.
- Development of Expressway and Highways are also reducing the fuel consumption and pollution.
- Eastern Peripheral Expressway & Western Peripheral Expressway have been operationalised to divert non destined traffic from Delhi.
- All 10-year-old diesel vehicles are deregistered in Delhi NCR.
- Environment protection charges (EPC) have been imposed on diesel vehicles with engine capacity of 2000cc and above in Delhi NCR.
- Introduction of cleaner/alternate fuels like CNG, LPG, ethanol blending in petrol.
- Faster Adoption and Manufacturing of Electric Vehicles (FAME) -2 scheme has been rolled out.
- Permit requirement for electric vehicles has been exempted.
- Promotion of public transport and improvements in roads and building of more bridges to ease congestion on roads.

Industrial Emission

- Stringent emission norms for Coal based Thermal Power Plants (TPPs).
- Ban on use of pet coke and furnace oil in NCR with restricted use of pet coke in cement plants, lime kilns and calcium carbide manufacturing units.
- Shifting of industrial units to PNG.
- Installation of online continuous emission monitoring devices in highly polluting industries.
- Shifting of brick kilns to zig-zag technology for reduction of pollution

Air Pollution due to dust and burning of waste

- Notifications of 6 waste management rules covering solid waste, plastic waste, e-waste, bio-medical waste, C&D waste and hazardous waste.
- Setting up infrastructure such as waste processing plants.
- Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) for plastic and e-waste management.
- Ban on burning of biomass/garbage.

Crop Residue Management

- Under Central Sector Scheme on 'Promotion of Agricultural Mechanization for in-situ management of Crop Residue in the States of Punjab, Haryana, Uttar Pradesh and NCT of Delhi', agricultural machines and equipment for in-situ crop residue management are promoted with 50% subsidy to the individual farmers and 80% subsidy for establishment of Custom Hiring Centres.
- Sustainable Alternative Towards Affordable Transportation (SATAT) has been launched as an initiative to set up Compressed Bio-Gas (CBG) production plants and make CBG available in the market for use in automotive fuels.

Monitoring of Ambient Air Quality

- Expansion of air quality monitoring network of manual as well as continuous monitoring stations under programmes such as National Air Monitoring Programme (NAMP).
- Initiation of pilot projects to assess alternate ambient monitoring technologies such as low-cost sensors and satellite-based monitoring.
- Implementation of Air Quality Early Warning System for Delhi, Kanpur and Lucknow. The system provides alerts for taking timely actions.
- Public Complaints regarding air pollution issues in Delhi NCR are taken through 'Sameer App', 'Emails'(Aircomplaints.cpcb@gov.in) and 'Social Media Networks' (Facebook and Twitter).

Monitoring implementation of NCAP

- Government has launched National Clean Air Programme (NCAP) as a national level strategy to reduce air pollution levels across the country. City Specific Clean Air Action Plans have been prepared and rolled out forimplementation in132 non-attainment and million plus cities.
- ₹ 375.44 crores have been sanctioned to non-attainment cities under NCAP for initiating actions such as expansion of monitoring network, construction and demolition waste management facilities, non-motorised transport infrastructure, green buffers, mechanical street sweepers, composting units etc.
- As per the Fifteenth Finance commission recommendations ₹4400 crores have been released in the Budget of FY 2020-21 to tackle the burgeoning problem of air pollution for 42 urban centres with a million-plus population. Further, an amount of ₹12,139 crores has been allocated for improvement of air quality for the award period FY 2021-26.

- City Specific Action Plans for improvement of air quality has been prepared and approved for implementation.
- Implementation of the city specific action plans are regularly monitored by Committees at Central and State level namely Steering Committee, Monitoring Committee and Implementation Committee.
- PRANA a portal for monitoring implementation of NCAP has been launched.

***