

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 968
TO BE ANSWERED ON 08.02.2019

Death due to Air Pollution

968. SHRI G.M. SIDDESHWARA:
SHRIMATI RANJANBEN BHATT:

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

- (a) whether the Government is aware that increasing pollution and rapid industrialization is making India's air more toxic and if so, the details thereof;
- (b) whether it is a fact that there are around one lakh deaths every year due to breathing ailments;
- (c) if so, the details thereof along with the death cases due to air pollution reported in various cities of the country including Delhi;
- (d) the details of Carbon di-oxide concentration level in India's metro cities; and
- (e) the preventive measures taken/ proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard?

ANSWER

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

(a) The Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) along with various premier research institutes has carried out air quality monitoring, emission inventory and source apportionment studies in six major cities viz. Delhi, Mumbai, Chennai, Bangalore, Pune and Kanpur. The study has revealed that road dust suspension, emissions from vehicles, garbage burning, dust from construction sites, DG sets, industrial emissions, etc. are the major sources of air pollution due to particulates in these cities.

(b) & (c) Air pollution is one of the triggering factors for respiratory ailments and associated diseases. However, there are no conclusive data available in the country to establish direct correlation of death/disease exclusively due to air pollution. This could be further aggravated due to other factors such as smoking, occupational exposure, heredity and general state of health and well being.

(d) CPCB is monitoring ambient air quality in 731 locations covering 312 cities/towns in 29 States and 6 Union Territories across the country under National Air Quality Monitoring Programme (NAMP). Under NAMP, three criteria pollutants viz. PM₁₀ (Particulate Matter having an aerodynamic diameter less than or equal to 10 µm), Sulphur dioxide (SO₂) and Nitrogen dioxide (NO₂) are monitored. Carbon dioxide is not notified as an air pollutant among the parameters notified under National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS), as it is a normal constituent of the atmosphere.

(e) The Government has taken several steps to address air pollution, which *inter alia* includes the following:

- notification of National Ambient Air Quality Standards
- revision of emission standards for industrial sectors from time to time
- setting up of monitoring network for assessment of ambient air quality
- introduction of cleaner / alternate fuels like gaseous fuel (CNG, LPG etc.)
- ethanol blending
- launching of National Air Quality index
- leapfrogging from BS-IV to BS-VI fuel standards
- notification of Construction and Demolition Waste Management Rules
- banning of burning of biomass
- streamlining the issuance of Pollution Under Control Certificate
- issuance of directions under Section 18(1)(b) of Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1981 and under Section 5 of Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 for controlling air pollution
- installation of on-line continuous (24x7) monitoring devices by major industries
- notification of Graded Response Action Plan for Delhi and NCR
- comprehensive action plan for air pollution control in Delhi and NCR
- formulation of National Clean Air Programme (NCAP)
- organization of clean air campaigns, etc.
