

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA**  
**MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS**  
**RAJYA SABHA**  
**QUESTION NO 06.12.2010**  
**ANSWERED ON**

**EFFECT OF POLLUTION ON HUMAN AND ENVIRONMENT .**

2809

Shri Mohammed Adeb

Will the Minister of COALENVIROMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :-

- (a) whether it is a fact that Delhi ranks among 230 most polluted cities in Asia;
- (b) if so , the details of other polluting cities in the country;
- (c) the effects of pollution on human and environmental health;
- (d) the steps taken/being taken to control pollution in the country; and
- (e) the details of the plan prepared for the same?

**ANSWER**

## MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) FOR ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS

(SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH)

(a) & (b) As reported by the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB), the Swedish International Development Co-operation Agency (SIDA) and the Asian Development Bank (ADB) under the Sustainable Urban Mobility in Asia (SUMA) has developed a clean air scorecard for arriving at the air quality ranking for Asian cities. The clean air scorecard tool evaluates the current air quality management status of a city based on Air Pollution and Health Index (APHI), Clean Air Management Capacity Index (CAMCI) and Clean Air Policies and Action Index (CAPAI). Accordingly, based on this assessment, Delhi ranks among 230 most polluted cities in Asia. For ranking of the cities, the data of 2008 for Particulate Matter (PM) has been taken. Besides Delhi, other northern Indian cities such as Kanpur, Lucknow and Ludhiana were categorized as bad on the air pollution scorecard developed by Asian Development Bank (ADB).

(c) Various pollutants may have health impacts depending upon the length of exposure, concentration of pollutants and other factors. However, there is no conclusive data to establish co-relationship between various pollutants and the incidences of health ailments.

(d) to (e) Steps taken by the Government to control air pollution in the cities are as:

Ensuring compliance of emission standards as per Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974. Bharat stage-IV emission norms have been implemented in 13 cities including NCR for new 4-wheelers in 2010. Mass emission standards (Bharat stage III) have been notified for two, three wheelers and diesel driven agricultural tractors from April 1, 2010 throughout country. Stringent Emission Standards have been implemented to regulate emissions from in-use vehicles from October 2004 in all over the country. Fuel quality commensurate with the existing emission norms is made available in the capital. 20, 17 and 15 year old commercial vehicle was phased out from October, November and December 1998 respectively in Delhi. Ban on plying of 8 year old buses except on clean fuel from 1st April 2000 in Delhi. Introduction of Bus Rapid Transit System (BRTS) aims to segregate of traffic in various lanes according to type of vehicle. Supply of low Sulphur content diesel and gasoline. Operating CNG mode as fuel in all commercial vehicles in Delhi, Ankleshwar, Vadodara, Surat, Kanpur, Bareilly, Agra, Lucknow. Introduction of Delhi metro rail to promote mass public transport system. Issue of directions to non-complying industries/companies under Air Act, 1981 and other provisions of Environment Protection Act, 1986. Random inspection of 17 categories of critically polluted industries under Environment Surveillance Squad (ESS) programme.