

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS
RAJYA SABHA
QUESTION NO 06.12.2010
ANSWERED ON
POLLUTION IN CITIES .

2839

SHRI MOINUL HASSAN

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

(a) whether particulate matter pollution in many cities of Southern States is much above the standard levels and is showing an increasing trend;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether increasing instances of heart attacks are experienced in the cities where traffic pollution is high?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) FOR ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS

(SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH)

(a). The Central Pollution Control Board is monitoring ambient air quality in association with respective State Pollution Control Boards and a Pollution Control Committee in 77 cities, towns and industrial areas of the five States in Southern India, namely, Andhra Pradesh, Goa, Karnataka, Kerala and Tamil Nadu apart from Union Territory of Puducherry in terms of sulphur dioxide (SO₂), nitrogen dioxide (NO₂) and particulate matter, less than 10 micron (PM₁₀).

(b)&(c). The levels of SO₂ and NO₂ are within the prescribed standards. However, the annual average for PM₁₀ has exceeded the standards in many cities like Hyderabad, Vijayawada, Patancheru, Bengaluru, Hubli-Dharwar, Chennai, Coimbatore, Salem, etc. while, it is within the standards in other cities like Mangalore, Hassan, Mysore, Belgaum, Cochin, Madurai, etc. The annual averages for PM₁₀ in these 77 cities and towns are showing a fluctuating trend. No instance linking high traffic pollution and increase in heart attacks has come to the notice of the Government.