

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

RAJYA SABHA
STARRED QUESTION NO. *146
TO BE ANSWERED ON 01.01.2018

Study on pollution level in the country

*146. DR. VIKAS MAHATME:

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

- (a) whether the pollution level in the country is at an all-time high;
- (b) if so the details thereof, city and State-wise and the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether Government has conducted any study in this regard;
- (d) if so, the details and outcome thereof; and
- (e) the measures being taken by Government to curb pollution in the country?

ANSWER

MINISTER FOR ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

(DR. HARSH VARDHAN)

(a) to (e): A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement referred to in reply to Rajya Sabha Starred Question No. 146 due for reply on 01.01.2018 regarding 'Study on pollution level in the country' by Dr Vikas Mahatme, Hon'ble Members of Parliament

(a)to (d) Pollution levels in the country are measured through a network of air and water quality monitoring stations. The data available with respect to ambient air quality for 244 towns for the period 2012-2016 reveals that ambient concentration of SO₂ showed declining trend with respect to 29 cities, steady trend with respect to 42 cities, increasing trend with respect to 40 cities and fluctuating trend for the rest of 133 cities. The ambient air quality with respect to NO₂ shows declining trend with respect to 29 cities, steady trend with respect to 5 cities, increasing trend with respect to 37 cities, and fluctuating trend for the rest of 173 cities. In so far as PM₁₀ is concerned, 21 cities showed decreasing trend, 17 cities showed increasing trend and 209 cities showed fluctuating trend. The data with respect to air quality therefore does not indicate that the pollution level in the country currently is at an all time high with respect to various monitored parameters.

With respect to water pollution as well, the data does not show increasing trend for all the years. The Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) monitors water quality of 445 rivers through a network of 2500 monitoring stations. The data with respect to various monitored parameters shows a fluctuating trend and not a consistently rising trend.

(e) The Government has taken several steps to address air pollution which inter alia, include notification of National Ambient Air Quality Standards; 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; universalization of BS-IV by 2017; leapfrogging from BS-IV to BS-VI fuel standards by 1st April, 2020; notification of Construction and Demolition Waste Management Rules; banning of burning of biomass; promotion of public transport network; 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; installation of on-line continuous (24x7) monitoring devices by major industries, etc. Abatement of water pollution requires control of pollution from industry and treatment of municipal sewage. Actions taken in this regard include effluent norms for various industries, besides laying down standards of discharge with respect to sewage treatment plants. Directions have been issued for abatement of water pollution to 66 metros besides towns along Ganga.
