

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

**RAJYA SABHA**  
**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1485**  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 01.01.2018

**Toxic air due to pollution and rapid industrialization**

1485. SHRI NARENDRA KUMAR SWAIN:

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

- (a) whether Government is aware that increasing pollution and rapid industrialization is making India's air more toxic;
- (b) if so, the preventive measures proposed to be taken by Government;
- (c) whether it is a fact that there are around one lakh deaths every year due to breathing ailments and if so, the details thereof; and
- (d) the details of CO<sub>2</sub> concentration level in India's metro cities?

**ANSWER**

**MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE**

**(DR. MAHESH SHARMA)**

(a) Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) and State Pollution Control Boards (SPCBs) monitor ambient air quality in the country under the National Air Quality Monitoring Programme (NAMP). Three air pollutants viz., Sulphur Dioxide (SO<sub>2</sub>), Nitrogen Dioxide (NO<sub>2</sub>) and Particulate Matter (PM<sub>10</sub>), are monitored at the 691 manual monitoring stations located in 303 cities / towns in 29 states and 5 union territories. Analysis of ambient air quality data of 42 million plus cities indicate that the values of SO<sub>2</sub> were within the National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS) of 50 µg/m<sup>3</sup> (annual standard) in all the cities during 2017. The value of NO<sub>2</sub> were within permissible NAAQS limit of 40 µg/m<sup>3</sup> (annual standard) in most of the cities. Levels beyond norms was mainly observed with respect to particulate matter.

(b) Government has laid down system of environmental regulations which *inter-alia* includes Air Act, Water Act, Environment Protection Act, National Green Tribunal Act etc to prevent and control pollution. Measures taken by the Government for abatement and control of air pollution *inter alia* include implementation of BS IV norms from April 2017, promotion of cleaner production processes, formulation of stringent norms for industrial emissions etc. Government has issued a comprehensive set of directions under section 18 (1) (b) of Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1986 for implementation of 42 short term and long term action plans to mitigate air pollution in major cities related to vehicular emissions; re-suspension of road dust and other fugitive emissions; bio-mass/municipal solid waste burning; industrial pollution; construction and demolition activities and other general steps. The State Pollution Control Boards have initiated steps towards implementation of these directions.

(c) There is no rigorous scientific study available to correlate deaths directly as a result of air pollution. However, air pollution is known to be one of the aggravating factors for breathing ailments.

(d) CO<sub>2</sub> is not covered under National Ambient Air Quality Standards as a pollutant notified by the Government and hence not monitored.

\*\*\*