

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

**RAJYA SABHA**  
**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.1498**  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 01.01.2018

**Air quality of the Capital**

1498. SHRI AMAR SINGH:

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

- (a) whether Government is aware that Capital's air quality has been rated as one of the worst in the World, by International agencies including WHO with millions of vehicles, factories and burning of crops stubble from neighbouring States belching out clouds of tiny PM 2.5 particles which has resulted in the alarming rise of lung cancer cases even amongst the nonsmokers; and
- (b) if so, whether Government have chalked out any programme to reduce pollution in the Capital and if so, the details thereof and by when the Capital is likely to be free from pollution?

**ANSWER**

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

**(DR. MAHESH SHARMA)**

(a)& (b) Cities can be ranked on the basis of different criteria pollutants with different results. An ambient air pollution database released by the World Health Organisation (WHO) in 2016 indicates level of pollution in cities across the world in respect of PM<sub>10</sub>/PM<sub>2.5</sub> (particulate matter) which is based on extrapolation of data and based on conversion factors. Data of few years are required to show increasing or decreasing trend of pollution level. Therefore, care has to be exercised before drawing any inference.

Human health is affected by number of factors such as food habits, occupations, socio-economic status, medical history, immunity, etc. Cancer is a complex group of diseases with many causes which *inter alia* include genetic factors, smoking, tobacco, diet, physical activity, exposure to radiation and chemicals, virus, other infection, etc. Air pollution could be one of the triggering factors for health ailments.

Government has formulated National Clean Air Programme (NCAP) as a long term time bound national level strategy to tackle increasing air pollution across the country in comprehensive manner. The overall objective is to augment and evolve effective ambient air quality monitoring network across the country besides ensuring comprehensive management plan for prevention, control and abatement of air pollution. The NCAP focuses on collaborative and participatory approach comprising all sources of pollution and coordination between relevant Central Ministries, State Governments, local bodies and other

stakeholders. Government has further taken several steps to address air pollution which *inter alia*, include notification of Graded Response Action Plan for different levels of air pollution in NCR; 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; notification of about 115 emission/effluent norms for 104 different sectors besides 32 General Standards and special measures for critically polluted areas, etc.

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