

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION No. 1499
TO BE ANSWERED ON 01.01.2018

Deterioration of air quality in Delhi

1499. DR. SUBRAMANIAN SWAMY:

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

- (a) whether Government is aware that quality of air in Delhi city has deteriorated during the last few years;
- (b) whether it is a fact that during the winter period the air quality at Delhi further deteriorates and it is a serious health hazard; and
- (c) what steps Government proposes to take to reduce air pollution and improve the air quality for better health standards?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE
(DR. MAHESH SHARMA)

- (a) Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) is regularly monitoring ambient air quality at several locations in Delhi under National Air Quality Monitoring Programme (NAMP). Ambient air quality monitoring data for last five years is given at Annexure I, which indicates that levels of PM₁₀ and PM_{2.5} are major concerns. The levels of NO₂ are slightly higher than the standard while the concentration of SO₂ is within the standard limit at all the locations during the last five years. Various reasons for high air pollution include vehicular pollution, emissions from industries, biomass burning, construction activities and road dust etc. Further, there has been an improvement in the overall air quality this year compared to last year. The number of severe, poor and very poor AQI days were less compared to last year (214 vs. 181). Similarly, the number of good, satisfactory and moderate days were greater than last year (151 against 109).
- (b) Ambient air quality of Delhi gets impacted adversely during the winter season during unfavourable meteorological conditions such as low wind speed and low mixing height. Poor air quality has an adverse health impact specially for young children and the elderly.
- (c) 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; collection of Environmental Protection Charge on more than 2000 CC diesel vehicles; notification of Graded Response Action Plan for Delhi and NCR etc. CPCB has also deployed 40 field inspection teams for pollution hot spots in Delhi NCR and is also co-ordinating with various agencies for reducing air pollution.

ANNEXURE

Annexure referred in reply to the RAJYA SABHA Unstarred Question No: 1499 due for answer on 01.01.2018 regarding "Deterioration of Air Quality in Delhi" raised by Dr. Subramanian Swami, HON'BLE Member of Parliament

Ambient Air Quality Monitoring Data of Delhi

Location	Pitampura					Sirifort					NAAQS (Annual)
	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	
SO ₂	5	4	4	5	6	5	4	4	4	5	50
NO ₂	44	45	40	37	40	48	43	39	49	52	40
PM ₁₀	206	206	195	241	262	291	181	209	189	320	60
PM _{2.5}	67	63	89	119	145	51	78	84	94	102	40
Concentration in µg/m ³											

Location	Janakpuri					Nizamuddin					NAAQS (Annual)
	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	
SO ₂	4	4	4	4	6	4	4	4	4	5	50
NO ₂	44	46	43	50	52	42	42	40	44	46	40
PM ₁₀	246	202	197	199	296	187	165	188	225	253	60
PM _{2.5}	49	57	79	94	118	44	66	74	83	109	40
Concentration in µg/m ³											

Location	Shahzada Bagh					Shahdara					NAAQS (Annual)
	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	
SO ₂	5	4	4	4	6	5	4	4	4	7	50
NO ₂	53	61	59	56	56	56	62	57	54	53	40
PM ₁₀	243	265	234	261	348	253	246	272	252	327	60
PM _{2.5}	62	88	69	99	120	106	86	85	113	119	40
Concentration in µg/m ³											

Delhi (Data reported by NEERI)

Location	Delhi - N.Y. SCHOOL					Delhi - Town Hall					NAAQS (Annual)
	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	
SO ₂	5	4	8	7	9	7	4	7	7	13	50
NO ₂	78	83	84	89	88	87	98	95	106	111	40
PM ₁₀	186	186	161	149	171	256	219	206	200	195	60
Concentration in µg/m ³											

Location	Delhi - Mayapuri Industrial Area					NAAQS (Annual)
	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	
SO ₂	10	5	6	9	9	50
NO ₂	80	88	94	99	84	40
PM ₁₀	268	292	287	265	309	60