

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

RAJYA SABHA
STARRED QUESTION NO. 241
TO BE ANSWERED ON 19.03.2018

Diseases due to air pollution in Delhi-NCR

*241. SHRI VISHAMBHAR PRASAD NISHAD:

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

- (a) whether it is a fact that despite taking various proactive measures to check air pollution in Delhi and adjoining areas, the desired result is not being achieved and this has led to various health problems of public at large;
- (b) season-wise details of the increasing pollution in Delhi during the last three years and the steps being taken to improve the air quality at present, and the outcome thereof; and
- (c) whether it is a fact that due to excessive pollution, pollution borne diseases are on the rise?

ANSWER

MINISTER FOR ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

(DR. HARSH VARDHAN)

(a) to (c): A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement referred to in reply to Rajya Sabha Starred Question No. 241 due for reply on 19.03.2018 regarding 'Diseases due to air pollution in Delhi-NCR' by Shri Vishambhar Prasad Nishad, Hon'ble Member of Parliament

- (a) There has been improvement in air quality in Delhi in 2017, in comparison to 2016. The number of good, moderate, and satisfactory days as per Air Quality Index (AQI) in 2017 were 151 compared to 109 days in 2016. The number of poor, very poor and severe days were 181 in 2017 against 214 in 2016. Control of pollution is an ongoing process and improvements are achieved gradually.
- (b) The season-wise details for three years is given in **Annexure – I**. The seasonal analysis of data for the last three years shows that the maximum concentration of pollutants is observed during the post monsoon period (October – November) whereas the minimum concentration is reported during monsoon (July – September). PM 10 levels were low in 2017-18 in summer, monsoon, post-monsoon in comparison to the levels in 2016-17. In winter, the average value was lower in 2017-18 as against 2016-17. The average values of PM 2.5 were lower in 2017-18 in all seasons compared to 2016-17. This shows that there has been a reduction in the season wise trends for PM.

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, 2018 in NCT of Delhi; Promotion of cleaner production processes; formation of stringent norms for industrial emissions 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; putting in place Graded Response Action Plan for implementation under different Air Quality Index (AQI) etc.

- (c) There is no conclusive data available in the country to establish direct correlation of death/disease exclusively due to air pollution. However, air pollution could be one of the triggering factors for respiratory ailments and associated diseases. Though the cases of Acute Respiratory Infection (ARI) have increased, however, it cannot be attributed only to Air Pollution. The total numbers of Acute Respiratory Infection (ARI) cases as reported by the Central Bureau of Health Intelligence (CBHI) has increased from 37485713 in 2015 to 40303141 in 2016.

ANNEXURE REFERRED IN REPLY TO THE RAJYA SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 241 DUE FOR ANSWER ON 19.03.2018 REGARDING “DISEASES DUE TO AIR POLLUTION IN DELHI-NCR” RAISED BY SHRI VISHAMBHAR PRASAD NISHAD, HON’BLE MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT

Annexure – I

Range of concentration of pollutants (06 stations) in Delhi during 2015 - 2018

Year	SO2				NO2			
	Summer	Monsoon	Post Monsoon	Winter	Summer	Monsoon	Post Monsoon	Winter
2015-16	4 - 4	4 - 4	4 - 7	6 - 9	33 - 53	31 - 51	44 - 60	49 - 68
2016-17	5 - 7	4 - 4	4 - 5	5 - 10	38 - 50	33 - 51	39 - 60	39 - 74
2017-18	6 - 8	5 - 6	6 - 12	5 - 10	32 - 56	30 - 47	45 - 99	61 - 76

Year	PM10				PM2.5			
	Summer	Monsoon	Post Monsoon	Winter	Summer	Monsoon	Post Monsoon	Winter
2015-16	142 - 258	172 - 212	254 - 335	268 - 385	73 - 87	41 - 94	111 - 207	121 - 269
2016-17	238 - 317	173 - 244	356 - 522	246 - 393	72 - 114	48 - 81	109 - 205	110 - 178
2017-18	223 - 310	88 - 177	296 - 443	267 - 348	58 - 122	48 - 71	118 - 163	130 - 147

Concentrations are in µg/m³

Summer – March – June
 Monsoon – July-September
 Post Monsoon – October – November
 Winter – December - February