

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

RAJYA SABHA
UN-STARRED QUESTION NO. 1501
TO BE ANSWERED ON 24.12.2018

Proposal to raise AQI for NCR

1501. SHRI C.M. RAMESH:

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

- (a) whether Government is contemplating in the light of Supreme Court's recent order to raise the Air Quality Index (AQI) to overcome unprecedented pollution crisis in the National Capital Region during last year, if so, the details thereof;
- (b) whether Government proposes to involve some NGOs also in this regard, the details thereof; and
- (c) whether any steps have been taken to identify and control toxicity by means of reducing emissions from man-made sources, if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

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

- (a) & (b) Hon'ble Supreme Court has passed orders with regard to prevention, control and mitigation of air pollution in Delhi and NCR from time to time. These Orders are being complied with by the Government.
- (c) To identify and control toxicity by means of reducing emissions from man-made sources, the Government has taken various measures which *inter alia*, include notification of Graded Response Action Plan for different levels of air pollution in Delhi and 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 from 2017; leapfrogging from BS-IV to BS-VI fuel standards since 1st April, 2018 in National Capital Territory of Delhi and from by 1st April, 2020 in the rest of the country; notification of Construction and Demolition Waste Management Rules; banning of burning of biomass; notifications regarding 'Mandatory Implementation of Dust Mitigation Measures for Construction and Demolition Activities for projects requiring EC, notification of Construction and Demolition Waste Management Rules; 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, etc. Eastern Peripheral Expressway & Western Peripheral Expressway. The Central Government has also notified a Comprehensive Action Plan (CAP) identifying timelines and implementing agency for actions identified for prevention, control and mitigation of air pollution in Delhi and NCR.
