

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

**RAJYA SABHA**  
**STARRED QUESTION NO. 93**  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 15.12.2022

**Exposure of children to air pollution**

93.: SHRI R. GIRIRAJAN

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

- (a) whether children are more vulnerable to air pollution as exposure to polluted air with higher concentration of pollutants damages brain development and leads to cognitive and motor impairments; and
- (b) if so, the details of the precautionary measures taken/being taken by Government keeping in view the fact that around 6 lakh children die prematurely every year because of polluted air and the details thereof?

**ANSWER**

**MINISTER FOR ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE**  
**(SHRI BHUPENDER YADAV)**

(a) and (b) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

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**STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) AND (b) OF RAJYA SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 93 BY SHRI R. GIRIRAJAN REGARDING “EXPOSURE OF CHILDREN TO AIR POLLUTION” DUE FOR THE REPLY ON 15.12.2022.**

**(a):** There are several studies conducted by different organizations, using different methodologies, on the impact of air pollution which is one of the many factors affecting respiratory ailments and associated diseases. Health is impacted by a number of factors which include food habits, occupational habits, socio-economic status, medical history, immunity, heredity, etc., of the individuals apart from the environment.

**(b):** The Government has taken several steps to address air pollution. These, inter alia, include:

- Notification of Ambient Air Quality Standards;
- Introduction of National Clean Air Programme (NCAP);
- Revision of emission standards for industrial sectors from time to time;
- 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;
- Leapfrogging from BS-IV to BS-VI fuel standards;
- Notification of Construction and Demolition Waste Management Rules;
- Banning of burning of biomass; 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 for controlling air pollution;
- Installation of on-line continuous (24X7) monitoring devices by major industries;
- Notification of Graded Response Action Plan for Delhi and NCR;
- Constitution of Commission on Air Quality Management in NCR and Adjoining Areas (CAQM) etc.

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