

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 3905
TO BE ANSWERED ON 06.04.2023

Deaths caused by air pollution

3905. SHRI B. PARTHASARADHI REDDY:

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

- (a)
- (a) whether it is a fact that 18 per cent of total deaths in 2019 can be attributed to increasing air pollution;
 - (b) if so, the measures being taken to reduce air pollution in the country;
 - (c) the number of deaths recorded due to air pollution in 2022; and
 - (d) the details of the measures being taken by Government to aid lower-income individuals in dealing with the health-related issues arising from air pollution?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE
(SHRI ASHWINI KUMAR CHOUBEY)

(a):

There are several studies conducted by different organizations, using different methodologies, on the impact of air pollution. However, there is no conclusive data available to establish a direct correlation of death/disease/life expectancy exclusively with air pollution. Air pollution 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) to (d):

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

- Government has launched National Clean Air Programme (NCAP) in 2019 as a national level strategy to reduce air pollution levels across the country with an aim to improve air quality in 131 cities (non-attainment cities and Million Plus Cities in 24 States) by engaging all stakeholders. The programme envisages to achieve reductions upto 40% or achievement of National Ambient Air Quality Standards for Particulate Matter₁₀ (PM₁₀) concentrations by 2025-26 over baseline 2017-18. NCAP focuses on preparation and implementation of National, State and City level action plans of the targeted 131 cities;
- Notification of Ambient Air Quality Standards;
- 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 gases 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).
- Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana under the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas regarding use of cleaner household cooking fuels was launched targeting the lower-income households using biomass fuels for cooking etc.
