

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

RAJYASABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION No. 56
TO BE ANSWERED ON 20.07.2023

Effects of air pollution

56. SHRI AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH:

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

- (a) whether as per the findings of the Air Quality Life Index (AQLI) for the year 2020 (published by the Energy Policy Institute at the University of Chicago), air pollution can cost Indians five years of their lives and if so, the details thereof;
- (b) whether as per the report, people in North India will lose 7.6 years of life expectancy on average if current pollution levels persist; and
- (c) whether the Central Pollution Control Board prescribes an annual average of 40 micrograms per cubic metre as the permissible upper limit for PM2.5 in the lower atmosphere and India's average PM2.5 levels are 55.8 µg/m³, if so, the reasons therefor?

ANSWER

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

(a) (b) & (c) :

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 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.

As per National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS), the annual average standard for PM2.5 concentrations is 40 µg/m³. Reasons for exceeding the National Standards for PM2.5 concentrations may be due to pollution from transport sector, road dust, biomass burning, open dumping, C & D waste and industrial pollution.
