GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1649
TO BE ANSWERED ON 13.03.2025

Establishment of Environmental Health Regulatory Agency

1649.   SHRI MALLIKARJUN KHARGE:

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

(a)   whether Government is considering the establishment of an Environmental Health Regulatory Agency (EHRA) to integrate environmental governance with public health protection and, if so, the details thereof;

(b)   the measures taken to bridge the existing disconnect between pollution control, environmental monitoring and health impact assessments across the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB), the Ministry, and the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MoHFW); and

(c)   whether Government has conducted any studies to assess the feasibility of such an agency, including its potential structure and regulatory framework, and if so, the findings thereof?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE
(SHRI KIRTI VARDHAN SINGH)

(a) to (c): No such proposal is under consideration.

Environmental quality standards are notified considering various factors including likely health impacts. Based on data, various measures are taken to mitigate pollution. These include setting up of emission & effluent standards for various industrial sectors, launch of National Clean Air Programme (NCAP) in 2019 to mitigate air pollution in 130 cities, action plans in respect of polluted river stretches and critically polluted areas (CPAs) and severely polluted areas (SPAs). All these measures follow comprehensive & co-ordinated approach by various agencies.

Further, an Apex committee on Environmental Health has been constituted under the co-chairmanship of Secretary, Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change (MoEF&CC) & Secretary and Director General, Indian Council of Medical Research, Ministry of Health & Family Welfare (MoHFW) to formulate Environmental Health Strategies in the country.

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