

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 3260
TO BE ANSWERED ON 06.12.2016

WHO Report on Air Pollution

3260. SHRI BAIJAYANT JAY PANDA:

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

- (a) whether the Government is aware of the report by WHO indicating that out of the 8 lakh deaths caused by air pollution in South East Asia Region, India accounts for over 75%;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the reaction of the Government thereto;
- (c) whether the Government recognizes the deteriorating air quality in the country as a public health hazard; and
- (d) if so, the steps taken by the Government to combat this problem?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) FOR ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE
(SHRI ANIL MADHAV DAVE)

(a) to (c) World Health Organisation (WHO) has published a report titled “Ambient Air Pollution: A global assessment of exposure and burden of disease” which presents summary of methods and results of the latest global assessment of ambient air pollution exposure. According to this report, air pollution has become a growing concern with an increasing number of acute air pollution episodes in many cities worldwide in South East Asia Region including India. There are no conclusive data available in the country to establish direct correlation of diseases exclusively due to air pollution. Health effects of air pollution are synergistic manifestation of factors which include food habits, occupational habits, socio-economic status, medical history, immunity, heredity etc. of the individuals. Air Pollution could be one of the triggering factors for respiratory ailments and associated diseases.

(d) The major steps taken by the Government to control pollution include notification of National Ambient Air Quality Standards; formulation of environmental regulations / statutes; setting up of monitoring network for assessment of ambient air quality; introduction of cleaner / alternate fuels like gaseous fuel (CNG, LPG etc.), ethanol blending; promotion of cleaner production processes; launching of National Air Quality index; universalization of BS-IV by 2017; leapfrogging from BS-IV to BS-VI fuel standards by 1st April, 2020; comprehensive amendments to various Waste Management Rules and notification of Construction and Demolition Waste Management Rules; banning of burning of leaves, biomass, municipal solid waste; promotion of public transport and network of metro, e-rickshaws, promotion of car pooling, Pollution Under Control Certificate, lane discipline, vehicle maintenance; regular co-ordination meetings at official and ministerial level with

Delhi and other State Governments within the NCR; 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; installation of on-line continuous (24x7) monitoring devices by major industries; collection of Environmental Protection Charge on more than 2000 CC diesel vehicles in Delhi; and ban on bursting of sound emitting crackers between 10 PM to 6 AM etc.
