

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2628
TO BE ANSWERED ON 01.08.2017

Polluted Cities

2628. SHRI K. PARASURAMAN:

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

- (a) whether the Government has taken note that 13 of the 20 most polluted cities in the world are in India;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the reaction of the Government thereto;
- (c) whether it is a fact that Delhi is at the top with 153 micrograms of PM 2.5 per cubic meter and the life span of the inhabitants is likely to be reduced by three years;
- (d) whether the Government proposes to increase the usage of electric vehicles in metro cities;
- (e) if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

MINISTER FOR ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

(DR. HARSH VARDHAN)

(a) & (b) A number of reports are published from time to time ranking cities on various parameters. Such reports need to be scientifically scrutinized and validated before arriving at any conclusion. Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) and State Pollution Control Boards (SPCBs) monitor ambient air quality in the country under the National Air Quality Monitoring Programme (NAMP). Three air pollutants viz., Sulphur Dioxide (SO₂), Nitrogen Dioxide (NO₂) and Particulate Matter (PM₁₀), are monitored at the 684 manual monitoring stations located in 302 cities / towns in 29 states and 5 union territories. Analysis of ambient air quality data of 42 million plus cities for last three years indicate that the values of SO₂ were within the National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS) of 50 µg/m³ (annual standard) in all the cities during 2016. The value of NO₂ were within permissible NAAQS limit of 40 µg/m³ (annual standard) in most of the cities. Exceedance was mainly observed with respect to particulate matter. However, the analysis of time series data of particulate matter in various cities does not show any significant rising trend despite rise in population, number of vehicles and other economic activities.

(c) The Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) has been monitoring PM_{2.5} at 7 locations in Delhi under National Air Quality Monitoring Programme (NAMP). The annual average ambient levels of PM_{2.5} in Delhi during 2012-2016 is ranged between 63-119 µg/m³. Air pollution is known to be one of the aggravating factors for many respiratory ailments and cardiovascular disease. Epidemiological studies indicate an association between particulate air pollution and exacerbations of illness in people with respiratory disease.

(d) & (e) Yes Sir. Government of India (Ministry of Heavy Industries & Public Enterprises) has launched the National Mobility Mission Plan (NEMMP) 2020 in 2013. It aims to achieve national fuel security by promoting hybrid and electric vehicles in the country. Government has launched the scheme namely Faster Adoption and Manufacturing of (Hybrid &) Electric Vehicles (FAME India) under NEPPM 2020 in the Union Budget for 2015-2016 with incentive to provide a major push for early adoption and market creation of both hybrid and electric vehicles in the country.
