GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.1337
TO BE ANSWERED ON 09.02.2018

Deaths Due to Air Pollution

1337. DR. ANUPAM HAZRA:
SHRI M.B. RAJESH:
SHRI P. KUMAR:
SHRI A.P. JITHENDER REDDY:
SHRI LALLU SINGH:
SHRI HARI MANJHI:
SHRI ANTO ANTONY:

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

(a) whether as per a premier international agency and medical journal, deaths due to air pollution and from Chronic obstructive pulmonary disease in various cities including metropolitan cities are highest in the country and if so, the details thereof;
(b) whether increase in air pollution due to emissions from factories and cutting of trees poses a serious threat to human life and if so, the details thereof along with the total number of people died due to air pollution in various cities during the last three years, State/UT-wise;
(c) whether the Central Pollution Control Board has assessed the quality of air pollution in metropolitan cities and if so, the details thereof;
(d) the details of projects undertaken by his Ministry to reduce air pollution in New Delhi and other affected State Capitals during the last three years along with its achievements thereof; and
(e) the steps taken by the Government to combat the rise in air pollution and mitigate the health hazards arising out of pollution in various States?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE
(DR. MAHESH SHARMA)

(a) &(b) An article titled 'Nations within a nation: variations in epidemiological transition across the states of India, 1990-2016 in the Global Burden of Disease Study' was published in the Lancet journal in December, 2017. The article reported that five leading risk factors for Disability-Adjusted Life Years (DALYs) in 2016 are child and maternal malnutrition, air pollution, dietary risks, high systolic blood pressure, and high fasting plasma glucose. The article also states that though the levels of exposure in India is among the highest in the world, the DALY due to air pollution decreased by 23·6% in India from 1990 to 2016.

There are no conclusive data available in the country to establish direct correlation of death/disease exclusively due to air pollution. However, air pollution could be one of the triggering factors for respiratory ailments and associated diseases. 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.

(c) Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) is monitoring ambient air quality in 691 locations covering 303 cities/towns in 29 States and 6 Union Territories across the country under National Air Quality Monitoring Programme (NAMP). As per the data, the number of cities, where monitored values are exceeding National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS) during 2016, is 21 for NO_2, 195 for PM_{10} and 31 for $PM_{2.5}$.

(d) & (e) The Government has taken several steps to address air pollution which *inter alia,* include notification of National Ambient Air Quality Standards; setting up of monitoring network for assessment of ambient air quality; introduction of cleaner / alternate fuels like gaseous fuel (CNG, LPG etc.), ethanol blending, 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; notification of Construction and Demolition Waste Management Rules; banning of burning of biomass; promotion of public transport network; 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; installation of on-line continuous (24x7) monitoring devices by major industries; notification of Graded Response Action Plan for Delhi and NCR,collection of Environmental Protection Charge on more than 2000 CC diesel vehicles, etc. .

In addition, the government has formulated National Clean Air Programme (NCAP) as a long term time bound national level strategy to tackle the increasing air pollution problem across the country in comprehensive manner. The overall objective is to augment and evolve effective ambient air quality monitoring network across the country besides ensuring comprehensive management plan for prevention, control and abatement of air pollution. The NCAP focuses on collaborative and participatory approach comprising all sources of pollution and coordination between relevant Central Ministries, State Governments, local bodies and other stakeholders.

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