

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.3489
TO BE ANSWERED ON 16.03.2018

Pollution from Factories

3489. PROF. RAVINDRA VISHWANATH GAIKWAD:

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

- (a) whether the Government has reviewed the standards of factories emitting poisonous smoke, spreading pollution in the country, which has caused many fatal diseases to the people living there like asthma, lung cancer, blindness etc. and is causing many deaths;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the details of standards policy of the Government regarding pollution;
- (d) whether need to change the said standards was felt during review; and
- (e) if so, the reasons therefor, and the steps being taken by the Government to save people of cities from pollution?

ANSWER

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

(a) & (b) The Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change (MoEF&CC) under the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 is empowered to take necessary measures for protection and improvement of the quality of the environment and health by setting up standards for emissions and discharge of pollutants in the environment. The MoEF&CC has developed 45 industry specific effluent standards and 57 industry specific emission standards for 78 different sectors of industries besides 32 general standards for ambient air, noise and water discharge. Review of these standards is an ongoing process and takes into account the technical and financial feasibility and health aspect. Compliance with the standards is expected to address issues related to health and diseases such as asthma, lung cancer etc.

(c) to (e) The Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change notifies new environmental standards besides undertaking revision of existing standards based on scientific inputs and techno-economic feasibility to address pollution from various sources from time to time.

Steps taken for saving people of cities from industrial pollution, *inter-alia* include, notification of National Ambient Air Quality Standards; setting up of monitoring network for assessment of ambient air quality; launching of National Air Quality index; introduction of cleaner / alternate fuels; universalization of BS-IV by 2020; leapfrogging from BS-IV to BS-VI fuel standards by 1st April, 2020; promotion of public transport and network of metro, e-rickshaws, promotion of car pooling, Pollution Under Control Certificate, lane discipline,

vehicle maintenance, notification of Construction and Demolition Waste Management Rules; banning of burning of biomass; issuance of directions under Section 18(1)(b) of Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1981 comprising of action points to counter air pollution in major cities including control and mitigation measures related to vehicular emissions, re-suspension of road dust and other fugitive emissions, bio-mass/municipal solid waste burning, industrial pollution, construction and demolition activities, and other general steps; installation of on-line continuous (24x7) monitoring devices by major industries; notification of graded response action plan for Delhi and NCR; categorization of industries based on pollution potential; revision of environmental standards for various industrial sectors and setting up of 'Environmental Surveillance Squad' for carrying out surprise inspections of 17 categories of highly polluting large & medium scale units; etc.
