

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

LOK SABHA
UN-STARRED QUESTION NO. 6586
TO BE ANSWERED ON 06.04.2018

Toxic Air

6586. SHRI JITENDRA CHAUDHURY:

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

- (a) whether it is a fact that 47 million children in India are exposed to deadly toxic air according to Greenpeace India report and if so, the details thereof;
- (b) whether it is a fact that as many as 47 million children under the age of five years are residing in areas where particulate matter 10 level exceeded Central Pollution Control Board(CPCB) annual limits and if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether it is a fact that children are worst affected in States such as Uttar Pradesh, Rajasthan, Bihar, Maharashtra and Delhi;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the corrective measures taken by the Government in this regard?

ANSWER

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

- (a) to (d) There is 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, particularly in children and elderly people. In 2016, Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) monitored ambient air quality in 273 cities/towns in 29 States and 6 Union Territories across the country under National Air Quality Monitoring Programme (NAMP). During 2016, 190 cities exceeded NAAQS in the residential/industrial/rural area and 5 cities in ecologically sensitive area for PM₁₀. 51 out of the 195 cities (190 in residential/Rural/ Industrial Areas and 5 in ecologically sensitive area) where NAAQS for PM10 exceeded are located in the five states of Uttar Pradesh (20), Rajasthan (7), Bihar(1), Maharashtra(22) and Delhi (1).
- (e) Government has taken several initiatives for better air quality in the country 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, 2018 in NCT of Delhi; Promotion of cleaner production processes; formation of stringent norms for industrial emissions; 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. The government has recently 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.
