GOVERNMENT OF INDIA MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 588 TO BE ANSWERED ON 20.07.2018

Deaths due to Air Pollution

588. SHRI P.C. MOHAN: SHRI C. MAHENDRAN: SHRI RAM CHARITRA NISHAD:

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

- (a) whether World Health Organization (WHO) has reported that air pollution in India are the main reasons for cardiovascular disease, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease and high cancers and thousand of premature deaths in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof along with persons died due to bad air or air pollution in the country during the last three years and for the current year, State/UT-wise;
- (c) the reasons for the air pollution in major cities of the country and the steps taken to control the menace and improve air quality;
- (d) whether the Central Government is having any special package to control the air pollution for entire Karnataka including Bangalore City and if so, the details thereof, if not, the reasons therefor; and
- (e) whether Kanpur city recorded the highest number of premature deaths per year due to chronic exposure to air pollution and if so, the details thereof and the corrective measures taken in this regard?

ANSWER

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

(a) The World Health Organization (WHO) has published annual compilation of health statistics for its Member States, including India. The title of the publication is 'World Health Statistics 2018: Monitoring Health for the Sustainable Development Goals' wherein, it has been reported that non-communicable diseases (NCDs) are the leading cause of deaths globally and in the South East Asia Region. The majority of deaths that occurred in 2016 due to NCDs were caused by the four main NCDs, namely, cardiovascular disease, cancer, chronic respiratory disease and diabetes. The report *inter alia* also states the key risk factors as, tobacco use, air pollution, unhealthy diet, physical inactivity and harmful use of alcohol.

(b) There are no conclusive data available in the country to establish direct correlation of death/disease exclusively due to air pollution. However, air pollution is 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) Source apportionment studies conducted in six major cities viz. Delhi, Mumbai, Chennai, Bangalore, Pune and Kanpur to identify major sources and their contribution to pollution indicates road dust suspension, vehicles, garbage burning, construction, DG sets, industries, etc. to be the major sources of pollution in these cities.

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; 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, formulation of National Clean Air Programme (NCAP), etc.

(d) The government has formulated National Clean Air Programme (NCAP) as a long term time bound pan India strategy to tackle the increasing air pollution problem across the country in a comprehensive manner. The overall objective is comprehensive management for prevention, control and abatement of air pollution besides augmenting and evolving effective ambient air quality monitoring network across the country. The NCAP focuses on collaborative and participatory approach covering all sources of pollution and coordination between relevant Central Ministries, State Governments, local bodies and other stakeholders. Hundred (100) non-attainment cities, including Bangalore, have been selected for formulation and implementation of city specific action plan under NCAP. In addition, the NCAP has many additional peripheral components viz. Technical Assessment Cell, technology support, sharing of international best practices, awareness and capacity building, source apportionment studies, plantation drive, intensive inspection drive etc to support the time bound implementation of NCAP.

(e) There are no conclusive data available in the country, including for Kanpur city, to establish direct correlation of death/disease exclusively due to air pollution.
