

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1972
TO BE ANSWERED ON 21.12.2018

Research on Pollution Level

1972. SHRI MANSHANKAR NINAMA:
SHRI K.N. RAMACHANDRAN:

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

- (a) whether the Government has conducted any research regarding the rising level of pollution in Delhi and National Capital Region (NCR), if so, the details and the outcome thereof;
- (b) the details of the steps taken by the Government to tackle the problem of the rising level of Particulate Matter (PM) in Delhi and NCR during the last three to four years;
- (c) whether the Union Government has undertaken any efforts to coordinate with the State Governments of Haryana, Punjab and Uttar Pradesh to bring down the level of Particulate Matter; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof along with the directions issued to such States on the issue of burning of crops?

ANSWER

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

- (a) The number of good, satisfactory and moderate days in Delhi in 2018 (up to 16th Dec) is 159 as compared to 151 in 2017 during the corresponding period. The number of poor, very poor and severe days is down to 191 in 2018 as compared to 199 in 2017 during the same period up to 16th December, 2018. The water quality of Yamuna river monitored at five locations in Delhi shows a fluctuating trend for Dissolved Oxygen and Biochemical Oxygen Demand and Total Coliform for the period 2012-2018 (Till July).
- (b) The measures taken/being taken by the Government to check/control the increasing level of pollution and improve the air quality *inter alia*, include notification of Graded Response Action Plan for different levels of air pollution in Delhi and NCR; 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 from 2017; leapfrogging from BS-IV to BS-VI fuel standards since 1st April, 2018 in NCT of Delhi and from by 1st April, 2020 in the rest of the country; notification of Construction and Demolition Waste

Management Rules; banning of burning of biomass; notifications regarding 'Mandatory Implementation of Dust Mitigation Measures for Construction and Demolition Activities for projects requiring EC' and 'Mandatory Implementation of Dust Mitigation Measures for all Construction and Demolition Activities'; notification of Construction and Demolition Waste Management Rules; 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, etc. Eastern Peripheral Expressway & Western Peripheral Expressway have been operationalised to divert non-destined traffic from Delhi. The Central Government has also notified a Comprehensive Action Plan (CAP) identifying timelines and implementing agency for actions identified for prevention, control and mitigation of air pollution in Delhi and NCR.

- (c) & (d) Meetings with Environment Ministers and concerned officers from neighbouring States were held under the chairmanship of Hon'ble Minister, Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change (MoEF&CC) on 27.09.18 and 01.11.18. Principal Secretary to PM as well as Secretary, MoEF&CC have held regular meetings with the concerned officers of the neighbouring States to address this issue of burning of crops. Directions under section 5 of E (P) Act, 1986 and under section 18(1)(b) of the Air Act, 1981 have been also issued to State Governments of Delhi-NCR and Punjab on the issue of burning of crops.
