

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

**LOK SABHA**  
**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2050**  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 21.12.2018

**Deaths due to Air and Water Pollution**

2050. SHRI RAM KUMAR SHARMA:  
SHRI DUSHYANT CHAUTALA:  
SHRI NISHIKANT DUBEY:  
SHRI RAVINDRA KUMAR PANDEY:  
SHRI RAJESH PANDEY:  
SHRI SISIR KUMAR ADHIKARI:

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

- (a) whether there is high child mortality rate in India than anywhere else in the world due to air pollution, according to the latest estimates released by the World Health Organization and if so, the details thereof;
- (b) whether twenty-thirty per cent of the premature deaths in the country occurred due to air and water pollution;
- (c) whether 1,00,000 children died in the country in 2016, due to air pollution and if so, the details thereof; and
- (d) if so, the details of children and old people who died during the last three years and the preventive 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) The World Health Organization (WHO), from time to time, has been publishing estimates of mortality/ morbidity attributable to environmental pollution. These estimates are, however, based on models, simulations and extrapolations. Though air pollution is one of the triggering factors for respiratory ailments and associated diseases, there are no conclusive data available in the country to establish direct correlation of death/ disease exclusively due to air pollution. 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.

The Government has taken several steps to address air pollution, which *inter alia* include notification of National Ambient Air Quality Standards; revision of emission standards for industrial sectors from time to time; 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; notification of Construction and Demolition Waste Management Rules; banning of burning of biomass; 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 for controlling air pollution; installation of on-line continuous (24x7) monitoring devices by major industries; notification of Graded Response Action Plan for Delhi and NCR; comprehensive action plan for air pollution control in Delhi and NCR; formulation of National Clean Air Programme (NCAP); organization of clean air campaigns, etc.

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