

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.889
TO BE ANSWERED ON 14.12.2018

Deaths due to Air Pollution

889. SHRI SUNIL KUMAR SINGH:
SHRI JITENDRA CHAUDHURY:

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

- (a) whether million of people die in the country due to air pollution annually;
- (b) if so, the details thereof along with the total number of deaths reported due to air pollution during the last three years and the current year;
- (c) whether burning of fossil fuels are main reasons behind the air pollution and if so, the details thereof;
- (d) whether the country is facing huge losses on the healthcare of people due to air pollution and if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) whether it is fact that Delhi is the most polluted city in the country and if so, the details thereof and the action taken by the Government in this regard?

ANSWER

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

(a) &(b) A few reports have appeared in the media regarding the impact of air pollution on human health estimated based on models, simulations and extrapolations. However, there are no conclusive data available in the country to establish direct correlation of death/disease exclusively due to air pollution. 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 particulate matter pollution indicates road dust suspension, vehicles, garbage burning, construction, DG sets, industries, etc. to be the major sources of particulate pollution in these cities.

(d) There are no conclusive data available in the country to establish direct correlation of death/disease exclusively due to air pollution and thereby to calculate losses on the healthcare of people due to air pollution.

(e) Central Pollution Control Board is monitoring the ambient air quality at 731 ambient air quality monitoring stations covering 312 cities/towns in 29 States and 6 Union Territories under National Air Quality Monitoring Programme (NAMP). An assessment of ambient air quality data for the year 2017 with respect to annual average value of NO₂, PM₁₀ and PM_{2.5} indicated that Delhi is at 3rd position with respect to NO₂, 4th position with respect to PM₁₀ and 2nd position with respect to PM_{2.5} concentrations.

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.
