

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

**LOK SABHA**  
**UN-STARRED QUESTION NO. 1114**  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 08.02.2019

**Reduction in Air Pollution**

1114. SHRI RAVNEET SINGH:

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

- (a) the tangible results that the Government has seen in its plan to reduce air pollution in Delhi and North Indian States;
- (b) whether the Government has formed an Inter-ministerial committee in this regard, if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether the Government has consulted the State Government of Punjab in this regard and if so, the details thereof;
- (d) whether the Government has noticed that the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) has predicted the pollution levels in Delhi to increase in January-February; and
- (e) if so, the action taken thereon?

**ANSWER**

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

- (a) The measures taken/being taken by the Government to check environmental pollution, 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 from 2017; leapfrogging from BS-IV to BS-VI fuel standards since 1st April, 2018 in NCT of Delhi and from 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; 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.

Overall improvement in air quality of Delhi is noted in 2018 as compared to 2017. Number of 'Good' to 'Moderate' days has increased to 159 in 2018, as compared to 152 in 2017, and number of 'Poor' to 'Severe' days has reduced to 206, compared to 213 in 2017.

- (b) A High Level Task Force headed by Principal Secretary to PM has been constituted by the Government for management of air pollution in Delhi and NCR. Further Committee of State Environment Ministers of the NCR states headed by Hon'ble Minister, EF&CC also reviews the matters relating to air pollution mitigation regularly. Secretary, EF&CC also chairs a co-ordination committee with representatives of other Ministries and State Governments.
- (c) Meetings with Environment Ministers and concerned officers from neighbouring States including Punjab have been regularly held by the committees mentioned above.
- (d) & (e) System of Air Quality Forecasting and Research (SAFAR), Ministry of Earth Science has predicted that due to adverse meteorological conditions in January, the pollution levels in Delhi would be high in January. For control of air pollution in Delhi and National Capital Region, a Graded Response Action Plan (GRAP) (NCR) has been notified by the Ministry. CPCB has also deployed 40 field inspection teams for pollution hot spots in Delhi NCR and is also co-ordinating with various agencies for reducing air pollution.

Further, The Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change has launched National Clean Air Programme (NCAP) to tackle the problem of air pollution across the country in a 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 and enhancing public awareness and capacity building measures.

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