GOVERNMENT OF INDIA MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION No. 170 TO BE ANSWERED ON 19.12.2022

Monitoring of Dust Mitigation Measures

*170. SHRI KOTHA PRABHAKAR REDDY:

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

- (a) whether the Government is cognizant of the growing instances of non-adherence of dust mitigation measures mandated under the Commission for Air Quality Management (CAQM) leading up to the dispersion of construction and demolition waste in the air;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor;
- (c) the manner in which the monitoring of construction, re-modelling, repair and demolition of civil structures is being undertaken in the regions under CAQM;
- (d) the details of field visits or inspections undertaken in the past six months in the regions under CAQM for compliance of dust mitigation measures; and
- (e) the status of progress on building an online mechanism for monitoring and reporting of the compliance of dust mitigation measures?

ANSWER

MINISTER FOR ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE (SHRI BHUPENDER YADAV)

(a) to (e): A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARAS (a) TO (e) OF THE LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 170 DUE FOR REPLY ON 19.12.2022 REGARDING 'MONITORING OF DUST MITIGATION MEASURES' RAISED BY SHRI KOTHA PRABHAKAR REDDY, HON'BLE MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT

(a)&(b)

Dust arising out of ongoing construction and demolition activities and infrastructure development in the National Capital Region is one of the major contributors to the overall adverse air quality in the region. Accordingly, this sector has been a priority area for the Central Government and the Commission for Air Quality Management in NCR and Adjoining Areas (CAQM). CAQM has issued statutory directions, advisories and guidelines for appropriate dust mitigation measures, besides calling for compliance of various statutes viz. C&D Waste Management Rules and related CPCB guidelines.

In order to ensure compliance of various measures to control air pollution (dust pollution) mandated to CAQM, Government have conducted regular review meetings with CAQM and concerned central Ministries, Chief Ministers, Environment Ministers of concerned States, UT of NCT Delhi and other concerned stakeholders.

(c) to (e)

CAQM has an extensive monitoring mechanism and system towards compliance of dust mitigation measures in this sector in the NCR. Flying Squads/ Inspection Teams constituted by the CAQM have been regularly carrying out incognito inspections of the C&D project sites, besides inspections by the respective State Pollution Control Boards / DPCC and various departments/ agencies in the concerned State Govts. / GNCTD. Further, under statutory directions of the CAQM, 60 'Dust Control and Management Cells' (DCMC) have been set up by different road owning/ maintaining agencies in NCR (NCT of Delhi - 11, Uttar Pradesh -18, Haryana - 17 and Rajasthan - 14) to specifically monitor and manage dust pollution from road construction and maintenance activities.

During the period between July – December, 2022, a total of about 3725 field inspections have been carried out by the Flying Squads constituted by the CAQM across sectors like C&D projects, road construction / rebuilding projects. Of such inspections in the C&D Sector during July – December, 2022, 94 projects which were found to be grossly violating the directions/ rules/ guidelines, they have been issued directions for closure of work at the sites, which are resumed only after due compliance of various statutory requirements and preventive and corrective measures.

Under statutory directions of the Commission, all projects in the NCR on plot areas equal or more than 500 sqm. are required to register on the respective dedicated web portals in the States of Haryana, Uttar Pradesh, Rajasthan and the NCT of Delhi and certify self-compliance of various stipulated measures. The project sites are also required to be video fenced to also enable remote monitoring of the compliances by the inspection agencies through the respective web portals. Such portals have been developed and are operational in the NCR States and GNCTD.
