

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

**LOK SABHA**  
**UNSTARRED QUESTION No. 2769**  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 07.08.2023

**Pollution due to Construction of Highways**

2769. MS. CHANDRANI MURMU:

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

- (a) whether the construction of highways is causing pollution in a big way;
- (b) the steps taken to monitor and control pollution due to construction of highways;
- (c) the provisions for controlling such pollution and the penalty for non compliance of norms; and
- (d) the construction companies penalised for non compliance of norms in Odisha?

**ANSWER**

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

(SHRI ASHWINI KUMAR CHOUBEY)

(a) to (d)

The steps being taken to monitor air pollution caused at construction sites, particularly near highways, *inter alia*, include deployment of dedicated teams on the field to check air pollution related activities, statutory directions to all road owning/ maintaining agencies for setting up of 'dust control and management cells', monitoring through a dedicated web-portal, video fencing of projects, installation of anti-smog guns, screens at construction sites, use of dust suppressants and water mist, transportation of C&D materials in covered vehicles, installation of air quality monitoring sensors in project sites and self-audit and certification mechanism by the agencies concerned. Dust Control & Management Cell so set up regularly monitors the progress of dust control measures undertaken and prepare reports on a monthly basis. Adequatedrainage facilities to avoid any type of water logging during monsoon, water logging in borrow pits etc. are being provided to check water pollution caused at construction sites.

Commission for Air Quality Management (CAQM) has issued several guidelines/directions in this regard in Delhi and NCR. Further, the State Pollution Control Boards / Pollution Control Committees and other concerned agencies continuously monitor and enforce the dust mitigation / control measures.

To control pollution from construction and demolition waste, various provisions have been laid down in 'The Construction and Demolition Waste Management Rules, 2016'. Guidelines on dust mitigation measures in handling construction material and C&D wastes and guidelines for using anti-smog gun in construction and demolition sites having areas more than 20,000 sq. metres have been circulated among all State Pollution Control Boards and Pollution Control Committees. As informed, no penalty has been imposed by the State Pollution Control Board, Odisha on construction companies till date for non-compliance of norms.

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