

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS  
**LOK SABHA**  
**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO-369**  
ANSWERED ON- 21/07/2023

**COMBAT ISSUE OF AIR POLLUTION**

369. DR. T. SUMATHY (A) THAMIZHACHI THANGAPANDIAN  
SHRI SHYAM SINGH YADAV

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :-

(a) whether there are existing partnerships with neighboring countries to combat the issue of Air Pollution in South Asia, a global hotspot for the most polluted cities in the world;

(b) if so, the details thereof and if not, whether there are any plans to execute any such agreement;

(c) whether there are any signed MoUs with neighboring countries to install air pollution monitors at critical points to generate data and adopt cost-effective solutions to tackle the issue of air pollution based on airshed approach; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

**ANSWER**

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

(DR. RAJKUMAR RANJAN SINGH)

(a to d) In India's neighborhood, at the regional level, SAARC member states have signed the "Convention on Cooperation in Environment" in 2010. Similarly, BIMSTEC member states have identified "Environment and Climate Change" as one of the priority areas of cooperation and a draft Plan of Action for cooperation in Environment and Climate Change is presently under discussion among the member states.

At the bilateral level, India identifies cooperation activities with neighbouring countries based on mutual consultations, mutual requirements and mutual benefits. India has signed an umbrella "MoU on Cooperation in the Areas of Environment" with Bhutan in June 2021 that envisages long term cooperation in environmental protection and management of natural resources including prevention of Air Pollution. No specific cooperation agreement to combat air pollution have been entered into with other countries in India's neighborhood.

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