

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION No. 2449
TO BE ANSWERED ON 18.12.2023

Cloud Seeding to Control Air Pollution

2449. SHRI PARVESH SAHIB SINGH VERMA:

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

- (a) the current understanding and scientific evidence available regarding the effectiveness of cloud seeding as a method for controlling air pollution;
- (b) the details of any pilot projects or studies conducted by the Government or in collaboration with other organizations to assess the feasibility of cloud seeding for air pollution control in the country;
- (c) the details of assessment of the potential environmental impacts and risks associated with cloud seeding, especially concerning water resources and ecological balance;
- (d) the steps taken by the Government to engage international experts and bodies in understanding the best practices and technological advancements in cloud seeding for environmental purposes; and
- (e) the proposed plans or policy considerations for incorporating cloud seeding technology into the national strategy for air pollution control?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE
(SHRI ASHWINI KUMAR CHOUBEY)

(a) to (e)

A proposal for cloud seeding in Delhi-NCR was submitted to Delhi Government in the present winter season. However, as per India Meteorological Department (IMD), the scope of cloud seeding is limited in winters in northern region, as during winter season mostly the clouds are advected with Western disturbances. Also, generally, the moisture in the air is too less during winter in northern India and the potential pre-existing clouds are needed to carry out the seeding process, and these factors limits scope of cloud seeding. IMD had also informed that Cloud seeding experiments have been conducted world over including India specifically for application to water resource management only.
