

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION No. 3068
TO BE ANSWERED ON 06.12.2019

Challenges of Pollution and Environment

3068. SHRI MALOOK NAGAR:

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

- (a) whether India is presently facing challenges of pollution and environment;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the steps being taken by the Government to promote the use of solar energy to check pollution;
- (c) whether provision for subsidy to buyers has been made to promote use of battery driven cars;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the funds spent by the Government on symposia, conferences and advertisements, etc. to check pollution during the last three years?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE
(SHRI BABUL SUPRIYO)

- (a) & (b) Pollution is a serious environmental concern in the country. Government is making all efforts for the mitigation of pollution in the country.

Central Government has taken a number of regulatory measures for prevention, control and abatement of air pollution in the country. A **Comprehensive Air Plan (CAP)** for Delhi NCR has been developed identifying the timelines and implementing agencies for actions delineated. The Central Government has notified a **Graded Response Action Plan (GRAP)** for Delhi and NCR for different levels of pollution. The nature, scope and rigor of measures to be taken are linked to levels of pollution viz. severe + or emergency, severe, very poor, moderate to poor and moderate, after due consideration by authorities concerned. Also, Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change has launched **National Clean Air Programme (NCAP)** in January 2019 to tackle the problem of air pollution in a comprehensive manner with targets to achieve 20 to 30 % reduction in PM10 and PM2.5 concentrations by 2024 keeping 2017 as base year. The plan includes 102 non-attainment cities, across 23 States and Union Territories, on the basis of their ambient air quality data between 2011 and 2015.

There is an overall improvement in air quality of Delhi in 2019, as per Continuous Ambient Air Quality Monitoring Stations (CAAQMS) data in the period 1st Jan – 26th November in comparison to 2016. The number of ‘Good’ to ‘Moderate’ days has increased to 175 in 2019 in comparison to 108 days in 2016. Also, in Delhi, the average annual PM_{2.5} concentration has reduced in 2018 by 7.3% over 2017 and 14.8% over 2016 and the average annual PM₁₀ concentration has reduced in 2018 by 8.6% over 2017 and 16.5% over 2016.

With regard to prevention and control of water pollution, several measures have been taken. These include-

- Directions have been issued under Section 5 of the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 regarding ‘Treatment and Utilization of Sewage for Restoration of Water Quality of River’ to Municipal Corporations of 46 Metropolitan cities and 20 State Capitals.
- Directions have been issued under Section 18 (1) (b) of the Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974 to SPCBs/PCCs regarding treatment & utilization of sewage.
- The continuous water quality monitoring systems, Online Continuous Effluent Monitoring Systems (OCEMS), have been installed in industrial units in the country for getting real time information on the effluent quality to identify and take action against non-complying units.
- Setting up of monitoring network for assessment of water quality. 40% increase (2500 to 3500) in manual and 360% (10-46) increase in Real Time Water Quality Monitoring stations during the last five years.
- Stipulation of general discharge standards and industry specific effluent discharge standards under Environment (Protection) Rules, 1986 so as to prevent pollution of the water bodies.
- Indicative guidelines for restoration of water bodies issued as a guidance to the stakeholders for ensuring restoration/ rejuvenation of water bodies.
- Promotion of cleaner production processes, installation of Common Effluent Treatment Plants for cluster of Small Scale Industrial units.
- Issuance of directions for implementation of Zero Liquid Discharge in certain categories of highly polluting industries.

Government has targeted installing renewable energy capacity of 175 GW by the year 2022 which includes 100 GW of solar energy against which a cumulative capacity of 83.38 GW have been achieved till 31st Oct 2019.

(c) & (d) Faster Adoption and Manufacturing of Electric Vehicles (FAME -2) scheme has been rolled out with an outlay of Rs 10,000 crore for 3 years from 1st April, 2019 to encourage faster adoption of electric and hybrid vehicle by way of offering upfront incentive on purchase of electric vehicles and also by establishing the necessary charging infrastructure for electric vehicles.

(e) Government has organized a number of symposia, conferences etc. with participation of all relevant stakeholders including civil society organisations to create mass awareness, sensitisation and advocacy to check pollution.
