

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

LOKSABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.1113
TO BE ANSWERED ON 07.02.2020

Adverse effects of Air Pollution

1113. SHRIMATI SHARDABEN ANILBHAI PATEL:

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

- (a) whether the Government has conducted any study to assess the adverse effect of increasing air pollution on the health of people in urban and rural areas of the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the steps taken by the Government to improve air quality?

ANSWER

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

(a) & (b) Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) under the Ministry of Health & Family Welfare along with Public Health Foundation of India (PHFI) and Institute of Health Metrics and Evaluation (IHME) has published a report in 2017 entitled 'India: Health of the Nation's States - The India State-Level Disease Burden Initiative'. The study report provides the distribution of diseases and risk factors across all states of the country from 1990 to 2016. The five leading risk factors for Disability-Adjusted Life Years (DALYs) in 2016 includes child and maternal malnutrition, air pollution, dietary risks, high systolic blood pressure, and high fasting plasma glucose.

However, there are no conclusive data available in the country to establish direct correlation of death/disease exclusively due to air pollution. The air pollution is one of the factors affecting respiratory ailments and associated diseases. Health effects of air pollution are synergistic manifestation of factors which include food habits, occupational habits, socio-economic status, medical history, immunity, heredity, etc., of the individuals.

(c) The Government has taken several steps to combat air pollution in the country, which *inter alia*, includes the following:

- Notification of National Ambient Air Quality Standards.
- Revision of emission standards for industrial sectors from time to time.
- Setting up of monitoring network for assessment of ambient air quality.
- Monitoring of ambient air quality at 793 locations covering 344 cities/ towns in 28 States and 7 Union Territories across the country under National Air Quality Monitoring Programme (NAMP).

- Introduction of cleaner / alternate fuels like gaseous fuel (CNG, LPG etc.).
- Launching of National Air Quality index.
- Leapfrogging from BS-IV to BS-VI fuel standards.
- Notifications of 6 waste management rules covering solid waste, plastic waste, e-waste, bio-medical waste, construction & demolition waste and hazardous wastes issued in 2016.
- Streamlining the issuance of Pollution Under Control Certificate.
- Issuance of directions under Section 18(1)(b) of Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1981 and under Section 5 of Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 for controlling air pollution.
- Installation of on-line continuous (24x7) monitoring devices by major industries.
- 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. The plan includes 102 non-attainment cities, across 23 States and Union Territories.
- Notification of Graded Response Action Plan (GRAP) for Delhi and NCR.
- Comprehensive Action Plan (CAP) for air pollution control in Delhi and NCR.
- Organization of clean air campaigns, etc.
