

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

**LOK SABHA**  
**UNSTARRED QUESTION No. 2089**  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 23.09.2020

**Dip in Pollution**

2089. SHRI RAHUL RAMESH SHEWALE:

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

- (a) whether the Government has taken cognizance of the dip in air pollution and river pollution during the period of nationwide lockdown due to COVID 19 Pandemic in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government has taken note of suggestions received from various quarters to consider a change in their Policy on the basis of data of air and river pollution collected during the period of lockdown to check rise of air and river pollution across the country;
- (d) if so, the details thereof along with action taken/ being taken by the Government on such suggestions/ proposals so far; and
- (e) the further steps taken/being taken by the Government in this regard?

**ANSWER**

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

**(a) to (c)**

It has been reported that COVID-19 related lockdown has resulted in temporary improvement of air and water quality in many cities and rivers due to closure of industries, reduction in number of vehicles plying, lack of construction activities and absence of human activities such as throwing of garbage, bathing, washing of clothes etc.

**(d) & (e)**

The Government has taken several steps to combat air pollution and water pollution which inter alia, includes 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, 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, notification of Construction and Demolition Waste Management Rules, Notifications of 6 waste management rules covering solid waste, plastic waste, e-waste, bio-medical waste, C&D waste and hazardous wastes issued in 2016, banning of burning of biomass, 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, notification of Graded Response Action Plan (GRAP) for Delhi and NCR, Comprehensive Action Plan (CAP) for air pollution control in Delhi and NCR, formulation of National Clean Air Programme (NCAP), organization of clean air campaigns, etc,

In reference to water pollution and chemical pollution the steps taken by the Government to check the pollution of water bodies, inter alia, include formulation and notification of standards for effluents from industries into land masses/water bodies, operations or processes; enforcing of these standards by State Pollution Control Boards (SPCBs)/Pollution Control Committees (PCCs) through a consent mechanism to establish/operate and regular monitoring; setting up of monitoring network for assessment of water quality; installation of Online Continuous Effluent Monitoring systems (OCEMS) to check the discharge of effluent directly into 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; issuance of directions under Section 5 of Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 and under Section 18(1)(b) of Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974, etc.

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