

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION No. 2879
TO BE ANSWERED ON 12.03.2021

Pollution Level in Delhi

2879. SHRI RAMESH BIDHURI:

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

- (a) whether the level of pollution has tripled with each passing year in the National Capital Territory (NCT) of Delhi;
- (b) if so, the steps taken by Government to tackle the alarming situation;
- (c) whether the Union Government has issued any direction to the Government of NCT of Delhi to mitigate this situation; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

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

(a)

The air pollution levels are decreasing in Delhi-NCR region. The 'Good', 'Satisfactory' and 'Moderate' days in Delhi based on Air Quality Index (AQI) increased to 182 in 2019 in comparison to 108 in 2016 whereas, number of 'Poor', 'Very Poor' and 'Severe' reduced from 246 in 2016 to 183 in 2019.

(b)

Government has taken several steps for mitigation of air pollution such as introduction of BS-VI, expansion of Metro, operationalization of Eastern and Western peripheral expressways, shifting of industries to PNG, waste processing plants, online round the clock monitoring of red category industries, etc. The details of initiatives taken by government to combat air pollution in Delhi-NCR region is at **Annexure**.

While the Government is making concerted efforts to mitigate air pollution, the citizens should also extend support for the following activities such as:

- Renew your Pollution Under Control Certificate timely.
- Avoid idling of engines.
- Plan your errands to reduce travel time and trips.
- Adopt clean modes of transport.
- Prefer cycles/ e-bikes for short trips.
- Adopt public transportation wherever feasible.
- Avoid Congested routes.
- Segregate household waste

- Never burn waste
- Take recyclable waste to collection centres & earn from waste too
- Compost leaves and garden waste
- Avoid vigorous sweeping of leaves in gardens/ parks – use wide rakes
- Dispose e-waste responsibly.
- Adopt green good deeds and encourage others too.
- Use public grievance redressal apps to inform air polluting activities to authorities
- Share about ongoing clean initiatives with others.

(c) and (d)

Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) has issued various directions to urban local bodies of Delhi, Delhi Pollution Control Committee, Delhi Transport Department and construction agencies in Delhi-NCR under Section 5 of The Environmental (Protection) Act, 1986. The directions include:

- i. Ensure lifting of non- hazardous waste and place monitoring mechanism to stop burning of waste
- ii. Stringent actions against illegal industries operating in their jurisdiction
- iii. Dumping of waste in open land is solely the responsibility of land owning agencies
- iv. Construction waste material must be stored in designated place with all precautionary measures.
- v. Strict enforcement of action plans in identified hotspot areas
- vi. Ensure approved fuel is being used by industrial units
- vii. Actions against unauthorized parking of vehicles especially in congested areas.
- viii. Proper implementation of guidelines on dust mitigation measures and sound environment management of C&D wastes, including deployment of dust suppressant and anti- smog guns, where feasible.
- ix. Ensure immediate action for complete redressal of Sameer and social media complaints by November 30, 2020
- x. Closely monitor actions taken on air polluting activities reported through Sameer App and social media complaints;
- xi. Ensure regular surveillance and strict action against illegal industrial activities including tyre pyrolysis, burning of tyre & other wastes and dumping of wastes etc.
- xii. To allow only those new Industries establishments which are using cleaner fuel, namely natural gas (PNG/CNG), liquefied petroleum gas, bio gas, propane, butane etc.

CENTRAL GOVERNMENT INITIATIVES TO COMBAT AIR POLLUTION IN DELHI- NCR

1. ACTIONS TO CONTROL VEHICLE POLLUTION

Introduction of BS-IV and BS-VI Fuel and Emission Norms

- BS IV fuel and vehicle emission norms were introduced in April 2017 in the entire country. BS VI fuel was introduced in Delhi from April 2018, in NCR from October 2019 and in entire country by April 2020.
- 80% reduction in Particulate Matter emissions and 30% reduction in Nitrogen Oxides emissions in BS IV heavy duty diesel vehicles compared with BS III norms.
- Leapfrogging to BS VI norms is likely to reduce 50% Particulate Matter emissions and 88.5% Nitrogen Oxide emissions in comparison to BS IV norms. Improvement also in other pollutants and type of vehicles.
- Nearly ₹60,000 Cr were spent on switching over to BS VI fuels.

Eastern and Western Peripheral Expressways (EPE and WPE)

- EPE and WPE work completed at cost of about ₹17000 Cr and opened for public in May 2018 and November 2018, respectively.
- 30000 to 40000 good vehicles not destined for Delhi are diverted away from national capital due to WPE and EPE. This helps in reduction traffic congestion and pollution caused due to non-destined vehicles which earlier used to pass through Delhi.

Implementation of RFID system at all 13 entry points of Delhi

- RFID (radio-frequency identity) system implemented by South Delhi Municipal Corporation (SDMC) for collection of toll and Environment Compensation Charges from commercial vehicles entering Delhi.
- Cost ₹120 Cr for over the period of next five years (Design, Built, Finance, Operate and Transfer) basis.
- Strict enforcement of Environmental Compensation Charges on Delhi-bound trucks helps in control on numbers, including enforcement to check and divert all non-Delhi bound truck traffic and age limit (as stipulated by Hon'ble Supreme Court).

Motor Vehicle Act 2019: Increase in penalty for violation of PUC norms

- With recent amendment in the Motor Vehicle Act and increase in fine from ₹1000/- to ₹10000/- for not having PUC certificate, compliance has increased. Due to this, average number of daily PUC certificates issued has increased from 10,000-12,000 to 40000-45000.

- PUC norms compliance and traffic discipline will help in reduction in vehicular pollution in Delhi-NCR, which has a major contribution to pollution levels in Delhi-NCR.

Installation of Vapour Recovery Systems in more than 3000 petrol pumps in NCR is under implementation.

Delhi Metro Network Augmentation

- Delhi Metro Rail Corporation (DMRC) network now covers about 389 Km with 285 stations, reaching Delhi-Noida-Greater Noida-Ghaziabad in UP and Gurgaon to Ballabhgarh in Haryana. It today has over 300 train sets of four, six and eight coaches.
- Metro network expansion plays an important role in pollution reduction in Delhi-NCR as it shifts more and more private vehicles user to public transport, thus, minimizing use of individual cars as well as by reducing traffic congestion.
- Environmental friendly Metro at cost of more than ₹70,000 Cr is used by over 30 lakhs people every day and because of this 4,00,000 vehicles are avoided on roads, thereby, reducing pollution.

E-mobility Initiatives

- Department of Heavy Industry is providing subsidy on e-vehicles under Faster Adoption and Manufacture of (Hybrid &) Electric Vehicles in India (FAME India) scheme. Commencing from 1st April 2019, Phase-II of FAME Scheme has been approved with an outlay of Rs. 10,000 Crore for a period of 3 years. 48145 electric vehicles have been sold in the country under FAME-II scheme.
- Setting up of public charging stations (PCS) had been de-licensed and any individual/entity is free to set up PCS. EESL has installed more than 70 Public charging stations in Delhi NCR.
- States advised to exempt road tax on e-vehicles thereby reducing cost of purchase of ecofriendly vehicles.

2. ACTIONS TO CONTROL ROAD AND CONSTRUCTION & DEMOLITION DUST

- Construction & Demolition (C & D) Waste Management Rules were notified in 2016

3. ACTIONS FOR C&D WASTE PROCESSING IN DELHI

- 03 C & D Waste Processing Plants (Jahangirpuri, Shastri Park and Ranikhera) with total capacity of 2650 TPD are operational in Delhi.
- 04 new plants (Baba Hardisnagar, Siraspur, New Ranikhera, Bakkarwala) are being established to increase the processing capacity by 3000TPD.
- At present, 57 lakhMT C&D waste is being processed, with an off-take of 8,83,028 MT.

- 76 mechanized road sweeping machines (number of machines as in September 2019: Delhi - 60, Ghaziabad - 06, Greater Noida - 06, Noida – 04) and 502 water sprinklers to various municipal corporations with support ₹280 Cr.

4. ACTIONS TO CONTROL INDUSTRIAL EMISSIONS

▪ Thermal Power Plants

- Closure of Badarpur Thermal Plant of NTPC led to estimated reduction of **8 tons** of particulate matter, **44.7 tons** of Sulphur dioxide (SO₂) and **128.4 tons** of Oxides of Nitrogen (NO_x) emissions per day
- Implementation of new emission norms in thermal power plants will lead to reduction in emission of particulate matter by **92 tons**, Sulphur dioxide (SO₂) by **898 tons** and Oxides of Nitrogen (NO_x) by **474 tons per day** in NCR Delhi.
- SO₂ and NO_x standards for industrial boilers and Five Industrial Sectors (Ceramic, Foundry, Glass, Lime Kiln & Reheating Furnace) introduced. Out of 1511 operational industries in these sectors in Delhi-NCR, 1388 units have reported compliance with the norms.
- It is estimated that ban on use of petcoke in NCR has led to 48% reduction in total PM emission as compared to using Furnace Oil.
- Out of 5147 industrial units in Delhi NCR, 3074 have shifted to PNG.
- Out of 621 Red Category Air Polluting Units in Delhi NCR, OCEMS have been installed and connected to CPCB server by 563 units.
- So far 2783 Brick kilns in NCR have converted to Zig-Zag technology. (30 – 40% reduction)

5. ACTIONS FOR SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT

- Solid Waste Management Rules have been revamped in 2016
- Out of 10470 TPD municipal solid waste generated in Delhi, About 10466 TPD waste is being collected, 5193 TPD is being treated and 5276 TPD waste is being Landfilled.
- More than 5000 TPD Municipal Solid Waste (MSW) is treated at 03 waste to energy (59 MW) plants located in Ghazipur (1300TPD, 12 MW), Okhla (1950 TPD, 23MW) and Bawana (2000TPD, 24MW).
- 18 compost plants and 9 Bio-methanation plants are operations in Delhi is operational. For treating remaining waste, following actions have been taken by Municipal Corporation of Delhi
 - An integrated waste processing plant to generate 12MW of Power and process 2000 TPD waste is proposed at GhondaGujran through Joint Venture by EDMC with NTPC.
 - Waste to Energy plant at Tehkhand for 2000 TPD MSW has been awarded and project is targeted to be completed by December, 2021.
 - 100 TPD Bio methanation plant for treating cattle dung at Ghazipur has been awarded (EDMC)

- Bio mining of three dumpsites at Bhalsawa, Okhla and Ghazipur. Work for bio mining has been initiated at these three sites.

6. MEASURES TO CONTROL OF STUBBLE BURNING

- **In- situ Management of Crop Residue:** A Central sector scheme launched by Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare in 2018, '**Promotion of Agricultural Mechanization for in-situ Management of Crop Residue in Punjab, Haryana and Uttar Pradesh and NCT of Delhi**' to address air pollution due to stubble burning. The Scheme has been approved for continuation during 2020-21 with an outlay of Rs. 600 crores.
- 70,449 machines have been distributed so far along with establishment of 28, 907 Custom Hiring Centres (CHCs) in Punjab, Haryana, U. P. and Delhi
- In terms of Active Fire Events, stubble burning incidents has reduced by 25% (1652 AFEs) in comparison to 2019 in Haryana.
