GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION N0. 4045
TO BE ANSWERED ON 19.03.2021

Loss of Biodiversity

4045. SHRI RAMDAS C. TADAS:

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

(a) whether degradation of land, depleting naturalresources and loss of biodiversity are the core issuescaused by environmental pollution;
(b) if so, the details thereof;
(c) whether increase in construction activities andvehicular traffic have also contributed to rise in pollutionin cities; and
(d) if so, the details thereof and the initiatives takenby the Government to control air pollution?

ANSWER

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

(a) & (b)As per the Desertification and Land Degradation Atlas of India, prepared by the Space Applications Centre for the period 2011-2013, 29.32 % of the Total Geographical Area of the country i.e. 96.4 million hectares is undergoing the process of degradation.

(c) and (d) Source apportionment studies conducted by TERI-ARAI in the year 2018 reveals that during summer months, Dust (soil, road, and const.) contribute 42% and 38% to PM_{10} and $PM_{2.5}$ respectively, and, during winter months, Dust (soil, road, and const.) contribute 25% and 17% to PM_{10} and $PM_{2.5}$ respectively. Similarly, during summer months, Transport contributes 15% and 17% to PM_{10} and $PM_{2.5}$ respectively,and, during winter months, Transport contributes 24% and 28% to PM_{10} and $PM_{2.5}$ respectively.

Ambient air quality in the country is monitored through a network of manual and continuous ambient air quality monitoring stations. The Ambient air quality trend of cities in 5 years (2015-2019) in respect of parameters SO2, NO2, PM10 and PM2.5 is as follows:

SO_2

- All cities except one comply with the National Ambient Air Quality Standards of SO_2. (Except in Dehradun, as more stringent norms are applicable for Eco Sensitive Zones.)
- All the cities exhibited decreasing trend.

No_2

- 39 cities exhibited decreasing trend, 24 cities showed increasing trend and 231 cities have steady or fluctuating trend.

- Most of the cities comply with the National Ambient Air Quality Standards of NO_2.

PM_{10}

- 23 cities show decreasing trend; 239 cities show a fluctuating trend & 38 cities showed an increasing trend.

$PM_{2.5}$

- 11 cities showed decreasing trend; 79 cities show a fluctuating trend & 9 cities showed an increasing trend.

Government of India launched National Clean Air Programme (NCAP), which is very comprehensive plan to tackle air pollution problem across the country in a focussed manner to achieve 20 % to 30 % reduction in PM_{10} and $PM_{2.5}$ levels by 2024 from 2017 levels. The concerned ministries, State Governments, Research Institutes, Industries, etc. are partner in this effort. Under NCAP, a National Knowledge Network (NKN) has been constituted with a group of experts from IITs and Institutes of Repute as an advisory board for providing capacity building, State of art technologies, suggestions, advisories regarding air pollution mitigation and abatement to CPCB, SPCB and ULBS.

Further, on 15th August 2020, the Hon'ble Prime Minister also announced to improve air quality in more than 100 cities. Hon'ble Prime Minister has also launched Air Quality Index (AQI) in 2015, which provides air pollution information and health effect in simple form, which can be understood even by common persons. National Air Quality Standards are also based on health consideration.

The initiatives taken by the Government to control of air pollution *inter-alia* include 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 is at Annexure.

While the Government is making concerted efforts to control 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

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Annexure

ANNEXURE REFERRED IN REPLY TO PART (c) & (d) OF THE LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 4045 DUE FOR ANSWER ON 19.03.2021 REGARDING "LOSS OF BIODIVERSITY" RAISED BY SHRI RAMDAS C. TADAS, HON'BLE MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT

CENTRAL GOVERNMENT INITIATIVES TO COMBAT AIR POLLUTION

i. Vehicular Pollution Control

- Leapfrogging from BS-IV to BS-VI norms for fuel and vehicles since April, 2020.
- Network of Metro rails for public transport are enhanced and more cities are covered.
- Development of Expressway and Highways are also reducing the fuel consumption and pollution.
- Introduction of cleaner/alternate fuels like CNG, LPG, ethanol blending in petrol.
- Faster Adoption and Manufacturing of Electric Vehicles (FAME) -2 scheme has been rolled out
- Permit requirement for electric vehicles has been exempted.
- Promotion of public transport and improvements in roads and building of more bridges to ease congestion on roads.

ii. Industrial Pollution Control

- Stringent emission norms for Coal based Thermal Power Plants (TPPs).
- Pet coke and furnace oil have been banned as fuel in Delhi and NCR States.
- Industrial units shifting to PNG.
- Installation of on-line continuous monitoring devices in highly polluting industries.
- Shifting of Brick kilns to zig-zag technology for reduction of pollution

iii. Waste Management

- Notifications of 6 waste management rules covering solid waste, plastic waste, e-waste, bio-medical waste, C&D waste and hazardous waste.
- Setting up infrastructure such ass waste processing plants.
- Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) for plastic and e-waste management.
- Ban on burning of biomass/garbage.

iv. Crop Residue Management

- Under Central Sector Scheme on 'Promotion of Agricultural Mechanization for in-situ management of Crop Residue in the States of Punjab, Haryana, Uttar Pradesh and NCT of Delhi', agricultural machines and equipment for in-situ crop residue management are promoted with 50% subsidy to the individual farmers and 80% subsidy for establishment of Custom Hiring Centres.

v. Monitoring of **Air Quality**

- Expansion of air quality monitoring network under National Air Quality Monitoring Programme (NAMP)
- Implementation of Air Quality Early Warning System for Delhi. The system provides alerts for taking timely actions.

vi. Allocation of funds

- ₹ 336.8 crores have been sanctioned to non-attainment cities under NCAP for initiating actions such as expansion of monitoring network, construction and demolition waste management facilities, non-motorised transport infrastructure, green buffers, mechanical street sweepers, composting units etc.
- ₹2200 crores have been released in the Budget of FY 2020-21 to tackle the burgeoning problem of air pollution. Further, an amount of 2,217 crores has been allocated for 42 urban centres with a million-plus population in this budget for improvement of air quality.
- Rs. 7365.82 Crores was allocated for Solid Waste Management under Urban Swachh Bharat Mission from 2014-2019.
- Under Atal Mission for Rejuvenation and Urban Transformation (AMRUT) scheme Rs. 1436 Crore have been allocated for non-motorised urban transport and Rs. 1768 Crores for green spaces and parks for five years from FY2015-16 to FY2019-20.
- A provision of 1,41,678 crores over a period of 5 years from 2021-2026 has been made for Urban Swachh Bharat Mission 2.0 with a focus on air pollution reduction by effectively managing waste from construction-and-demolition activities and bio-remediation of all legacy dump sites.
- ₹ 1726.67 crores have been released for crop residue management in the States of Punjab, Haryana, Uttar Pradesh and NCT of Delhi, during the year 2018-21.

vii. Public Participation

- This Ministry has an ongoing Environment Education, Awareness and among all sections of the society, especially school and college level students and to mobilize people's participation for conservation of environment.
- The Green Good Deeds (GGDs), a social movement, is one of the components of the scheme aimed to inculcate green good habits and behaviour among all sections of the society to take green social responsibility such as minimizing the use of single-use plastic, celebrating Green Diwali, use of public transport, avoid personal car and promoting car pool, regular check-ups to get Pollution Control Certificate (PUC), save electricity, save water, avoid congested lanes etc. The detailed suggestive list of good deeds is available at http://164.100.160.232/sbhb/GoodDeeds.aspx

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