

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

**LOK SABHA**  
**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2016**  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 14.03.2022

**Increase in Respiratory Diseases due to Pollution**

2016. SHRI SUKHBIR SINGH JAUNAPURIA:

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

- (a) whether the number of patients suffering from respiratory disease has increased due to the worsening levels of pollution in Capital Delhi;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the number of persons died due to the respiratory disease during the last five years and the current years, State/District-wise/ Union Territories wise;
- (c) whether the Government has conducted any survey during the last five years to ascertain the reasons for the increase in the level of pollution during the month of October up to December every year;
- (d) whether State Government has taken any concrete steps in this regard; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof and the details of funds allocated and utilized for this purpose?

**ANSWER**

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

(SHRI ASHWINI KUMAR CHOUBEY)

(a) & (b) Air pollution is one of the triggering factors for respiratory ailments and associated diseases. There is no conclusive data available in the country to establish direct correlation of death/ disease exclusively due to air pollution. 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.

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 conducted the study titled 'India: Health of the Nation's States - The India State-Level Disease Burden Initiative' which was published in 2017. The study report provided the distribution in diseases and risk factors across all states of the country from 1990 to 2016. The five leading risk factors indentified for Disability-Adjusted Life Years (DALYs) in 2016 include child and maternal malnutrition, air pollution, dietary risks, high systolic blood pressure, and high fasting plasma glucose.

(c) to (e) Apart from multiple sources of air pollution, meteorology plays a dominant role in Delhi's air quality as winters are dominated by cold, dry air, and ground based inversion with low wind conditions, which makes the air stagnant and creates an unfavourable condition resulting in poor dispersion of pollutants.

The steps taken by the State Government is attached as **Annexure I**. These actions have yielded a positive impact on air quality and improvement was noted in the year 2021 in comparison to 2016 with the number of 'Good', 'Satisfactory' and 'Moderate' days increasing to 197 against 108 in 2016, and number of 'Poor', 'Very Poor' and 'Severe' days decreasing to 168 against 246 in 2016.

Rs 11.24 Cr. has been released to Delhi in Financial Year 2021-2022 Under the National Clean Air Programme (NCAP).

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Annexure - I referred in reply to part (c) & (d) of the Lok Sabha Unstarred Question No. 2016 due for answer on 07.03.2022 regarding 'Increase in Respiratory Diseases due to Pollution' raised by Shri Sukhbir Singh Jaunapuria, Hon'ble M. P.

**Steps taken by the State Government to control air pollution in Delhi-NCR**

**A. WINTER ACTION PLAN 2021-2022**

Data analysis of particulate matter in air during the last 5 years was done to categorise the pollution potential of every fortnight during winter 2021-22 in Delhi, and accordingly this year, the Delhi Government has made preparations to fight pollution with the help of all departments and agencies.

Two days online round table conference was organized on 12<sup>th</sup> & 13<sup>th</sup> April 2021 on "Steps to be taken to reduce Air Pollution in Delhi before onset of winter 2021" with participation of leading academic institutes, researchers, NGOs, civil society, private and government stakeholders to suggest the strategies on improvement of Air Pollution during oncoming winter season.

A panel discussion was organized on 07.09.2021 with expert organizations to discuss and receive feedback on the draft Winter Action Plan prepared for the winter season of 2021 on International Day of Clean Air for Blue Skies.

The Winter Action Plan 2021-22 was launched by the Government of NCT of Delhi and is a Comprehensive Action Plan prepared in consultation with all stakeholder departments with targeted interventions incorporating learnings from past years and combining the essence of previous years' measures, directions of Hon'ble Courts, directions of CAQM, and round table conferences with civil society groups, NGOs, research organizational and educational institutions.

Actions were translated into dynamic monitorable parameters. These parameters are monitored on a daily basis to take effective action and review meetings were held by Addl. Chief Secretary, Environment on 21.10.2021, 15.11.2021, 19.11.2021 and by Chief Secretary on design and implementation of Winter Action Plan 2021 on 05.10.2021 and 02.11.2021 and by Hon'ble Minister (Environment), on 14.09.2021, 17.09.2021, 30.09.2021, 22.10.2021, 25.10.2021, 09.11.2021, 15.11.2021 and by Hon'ble Chief Minister, Delhi on 13.11.2021 with all government departments and agencies in Delhi.

The Winter Action Plan 2021-22 focusses on the main pillars of air pollution control i.e., road dust management, C&D site dust control, open burning, vehicular pollution control etc. which needs to be undertaken by government departments / municipal corporations and daily action taken reports were mandated to be submitted to Department of Environment.

The Government of Delhi also launched a 10-point Winter Action Plan from 1st October 2021 till 28th February 2022, which encapsulates the targeted actions, as reproduced below, that government will undertake during this winter season.

1. Controlling stubble burning
2. Anti-dust campaign
3. Preventing Garbage burning
4. Banning firecrackers
5. Smog Tower

6. Identification and monitoring hotspots
7. Strengthening Green War Room
8. Upgrading Green Delhi App
9. E-waste Park
10. Controlling pollution from vehicles

## **B. ACTION TAKEN TO IMPLEMENT WINTER ACTION PLAN (WAP) 2021-2022**

### **i. Road Dust Management**

Road dust is one of the major factors leading to air pollution in Delhi. Hence for the effective control and management of road dust, and our action was focused on measures for controlling dust emission. Some of the key highlights of action taken on road dust management are:

- a) 69 Mechanical Road Sweeper (MRS) machines have been deployed across Delhi by road owning agencies. Number of MRS machines increased during the present year is 9.
- b) 372 water sprinklers have been deployed across Delhi for suppressing dust particles on roads and more than 39071kms of road length have been sprinkled during October 2021 till 24<sup>th</sup> November, 2021. Average road length covered with water sprinkler per day is 25Km.
- c) Consultations have been held with RWAs for planning route and timing of MRS. Advanced monthly calendar for MRS operations will be shared on website of agencies and through Whatsapp groups.
- d) Online real time GPS dashboard for monitoring live operations of MRS.
- e) Regular training sessions for sanitation staff, on measures are conducted for controlling road dust.
- f) Regular site visits and monitoring of MRS operations are being done by concerned engineers and supervisors.
- g) Identification and repair of roads by road owning agencies to ensure pothole free roads in Delhi are ensured. Area of road patched during October 2021 till 24<sup>th</sup> November, 2021 is 17502.79 sq. metres while the area paved is 11513.61sq. metres during the same period.
- h) Greening of central verges and road shoulders has been undertaken. Area greened during October 2021 till 24<sup>th</sup> November, 2021 is 15537.73sq.m.
- i) Directions have been issued to different local bodies to use dust suppressants on construction sites and dusty patches of the road.

### **ii. Construction & Demolition Site Dust Control**

Dust emissions from construction and demolition sites (C&D) is another major contributing factor leading to poor air quality in Delhi. The WAP 2021-22 is focused on enforcement of dust control norms of all C&D activities in Delhi. Some of the major highlights are:

- a) The Delhi Pollution Control Committee (DPCC) has recently launched an advanced state of the art web portal for periodic self-assessment by project proponent and site in charges of C&D sites on 01.10.2021.
- b) GNCTD has deployed 585 enforcement teams to ensure strict compliance of dust control norms as well as to stop illegal C&D waste dumping, for day and night patrolling.
- c) At large C&D sites, anti-smog guns have been installed for dust mitigation measures.

d) 192 vehicles have been pressed into used for transporting C&D waste to recycling plants, and 83410metric tonnes C&D waste has been lifted during October 2021 till 24<sup>th</sup> November, 2021

iii. **Anti-Dust Drive for C& D sites (07.10.2021 – 30.10.2021 and re-launched on 11.11.2021):** C&D waste is considerably a major source of Air pollution in Delhi NCR. The Anti-dust campaign had been organized in the month of October 2021. Under this dust drive campaign, a total of 2508 inspections were carried out. Out of which 406 sites were found non-complying and accordingly Show Cause notices were issued and Environmental Damage Compensation of Rs 123.5 Lakhs has been imposed. This Anti-dust campaign has been again implemented from 11.11.2021 keeping in view the worsening AQI during the present month. A total of 13659 inspections were carried out. Out of which 1702 sites were found non-complying and accordingly Show Cause notices were issued and Environmental Damage Compensation of Rs 385.66 Lakhs has been imposed.

**Efforts are being made to control dust pollution due to C& D waste / malba dumping.** Approximate total C&D waste generation in Delhi – 3711 TPD. 04 Construction and Demolition Waste Processing / Recycling plants are functioning at present (as on 31.10.2021) with installed capacity of 4150 TPD (Burari-2000 TPD, Shastri Park-1000TPD, Rani Khera-150 TPD and Bakkarwakla- 1000 TPD). Additional 2500 TPD facilities proposed at, TehkhandOkhla (1000 TPD), Ranikhera (1000 TPD), Libaspur (500 TPD).

#### iv. **Open Burning Prohibition**

Open burning of biomass and solid waste is another significant contributor to air pollution especially during winters. Key highlights of WAP 2021-22 in controlling open burning are:

- a) 550 enforcement teams have been deployed for identification and challaning of biomass and solid waste burning incidences. The amount of garbage lifted is 5,00942.46 metric tons during October 2021 till 22<sup>th</sup> November, 2021. In November, 5531number of inspections of garbage burning sites were conducted. 1154 open burning incidents were addressed and fires were doused. 1957 notices/ challans for garbage burning were issued.
- b) Plan is in place for controlling fire at landfill sites.24\*7 personnel have been deployed and CCTVs have been installed. Fire tenders have been deployed at landfill sites. No landfill fire incident has been reported this year.
- c) 65 trommel machines have been deployed for processing more than 10000 MT waste per day.

#### v. **Controlling stubble burning**

After successful demonstration over 2000 acres last year, PUSA Bio-Decomposer is being sprinkled free of cost by Delhi Government in more than 4200 acres of Basmati and non-Basmati fields harvested using combined harvester during this year.

- Spray of Bio-Decomposer solution is being conducted at 59 villages for 844 farmers of Delhi. Till 24/11/2021, Bio-Decomposer Spraying has been completed for 3935.5 acres Paddy.
- During 2021-22, two incidences of crop residue/ stubble burning have been reported in NCT of Delhi on 09/10/2021 and 25/10/2021 at

*Bankner&BajitpurThakran* villages. Penal action has been taken by concerned SDM.

- During the CFY 2021-22, 86 applications have been considered for distribution of implements and machineries. 50,000 Pamphlets were distributed for awareness among farmers and general public. 45 training programs were conducted and 1725 Posters/ Banner were displayed at prominent places in NCT of Delhi for awareness.
- Daily reports on prevention and control of stubble burning (as per format) are being sent regularly to CAQM.

#### **vi. Vehicular Pollution Control**

Vehicular pollution is one of the most significant contributors to air pollution. The WAP 2021-22 provides special focus on targeted enforcement against polluting vehicles. Some of the key highlights are:

- a) More than 6000 vehicles have been checked daily for Pollution Under Control (PUC) certificate as part of campaign.
- b) 183 enforcement teams have been deployed for checking of vehicles, and 85057 challans have been issued during October 2021 till 24<sup>th</sup> November, 2021.
- c) Targeted action for impounding more than 10-year-old Diesel and 15-year-old Petrol vehicles is being taken and 982 vehicles have been impounded from 01.10.2021 to 24.11.2021.
- d) 64 traffic congestion points to be resolved using engineering, regulation, and enforcement-based strategies.
- e) Traffic alerts are being broadcasted through 44 Variable message signboards functional with 3G connectivity and through social media platforms – Facebook and Twitter. Action has been taken to ensure that traffic signals are functional and on time repair takes place in case of faults.
- f) Other actions taken:
  - i. Publication of Public Notices in leading newspapers regarding carrying of valid PUC while driving vehicle from 19.09.2021 till now every fortnightly to educate general public.
  - ii. Around 30 lakhs SMSs were sent to vehicle owners to get their vehicle checked for PUC whose PUC had expired or was going to be expired within one week.
  - iii. From 07.10.2021, 56 enforcement teams were deployed to check and challan the vehicles not having valid PUC or visibly polluting.
  - iv. A drive to check functioning of PUC centers situated in NCT region and strict action initiated against defaulting centers.
  - v. As a special drive, enforcement teams have been deployed at 92 Petrol Pumps. Since 15/11/2021 360 teams have been deployed at every petrol pump/PUC centers for checking PUC of vehicles coming at these petrol pumps for filling fuel and persuading the vehicle owner/ driver to get the PUC issued at attached PUC centers on these petrol pumps.

#### **(vii) Ban on Sale and Bursting of Fire Crackers:**

GNCTD banned sale and bursting of all kind of fire crackers in Delhi. Directions were issued on 28.09.2021 under section 31 (A) of Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1981 for complete ban on sale and bursting of all kind of fire crackers up to 01.01.2022 in NCT of Delhi.

2154 teams have been constituted for the enforcement of direction. Since 29.09.2021 till 24.11.2021,469 cases have been registered and 320 persons have been arrested for bursting of firecrackers and 919.2 kg of firecrackers has been seized. For selling/ supplying of firecrackers, about 20794.94 kg of firecrackers have been seized while 130 cases have been registered with arrest of 143 persons during the same period. 2557 meetings were conducted with RWAs/NGOs regarding the complete Ban on Sale & Bursting of all kinds of firecracker and 1231 schools have been contacted to educate the children on the same.

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