

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

**LOK SABHA**  
**STARRED QUESTION NO. 112**  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 25.07.2022

**Impact of Pollution in NCR**

\*112. SHRI SUKHBIR SINGH JAUNAPURIA:

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

- (a) whether there has been an increase in the number of respiratory patients due to increasing pollution in the NCT of Delhi;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the number of persons died due to the respiratory diseases during the last five years and the current year, State/District-wise/Union Territories-wise;
- (c) whether the Government has conducted any survey during the last five years to ascertain the reasons for increase in the level of pollution during the months of October up to December every year; and
- (d) whether the Government has taken any stringent steps in this regard and if so, the details thereof along with the details of funds allocated and utilized for the said purpose?

**ANSWER**

**MINISTER FOR ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE**  
**(SHRI BHUPENDER YADAV)**

**(a) to (d) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.**

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**Statement referred to in reply to parts (a) to (d) of Lok Sabha starred question No. 112 by Shri Sukhbir Singh Jaunapurja regarding “Impact of pollution in NCR” due for the reply on 25.07.2022.**

**(a) & (b)**

There is no conclusive data available to establish a direct correlation of death/disease exclusively with air pollution. Air pollution is one of the many factors affecting respiratory ailments and associated diseases. Health is impacted by a number of factors which include food habits, occupational habits, socio-economic status, medical history, immunity, heredity, etc., of the individuals apart from the environment.

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) have conducted the study entitled ‘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 of diseases and risk factors across all states of the country from 1990 to 2016. The five leading risk factors identified 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) &(d)**

The major sources of air pollution in Delhi-NCR and adjoining areas which aggravate during the winter due to unfavorable meteorological conditions include industrial pollution, vehicular pollution, dust from construction and demolition activities, road and open areas dust, biomass burning, municipal solid waste burning, fires in landfills etc. Source apportionment study has been carried out for Delhi-NCR by TERI-ARAI, published in the year 2018, which reveals that during winter months, industries contribute 27% and 30% to PM<sub>10</sub> and PM<sub>2.5</sub>, respectively; dust (soil, road and construction sector) contributes 25% and 17% to PM<sub>10</sub> and PM<sub>2.5</sub>, respectively; and transport sector contributes 24% and 28% to PM<sub>10</sub> and PM<sub>2.5</sub>, respectively.

Consistent improvement has been observed in the air quality of Delhi due to various steps that has being taken up by the Government to control air pollution from various sources such as vehicular sector and industrial sector etc. 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.

Further, Continuous Ambient Air Quality Monitoring Station (CAAQMS) data for Delhi reveals that annual concentration of Particulate Matter (PM) has declined since 2016. Concentration of PM<sub>10</sub> and PM<sub>2.5</sub> declined by 27% and 22% in 2021 over 2016, respectively.

The Government has taken several steps to address air pollution in Delhi and NCR. These, *inter alia*, include Introduction of National Clean Air Programme (NCAP); Notification of 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 gases fuel (CNG, LPG etc.);Ethanol blending; Launching of National Air Quality Index; Leapfrogging from BS-IV to BS-VI fuel standards; Notification of Construction and Demolition Waste Management Rules; 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 for Delhi and NCR; Constitution of Commission on Air QualityManagement in NCR and Adjoining Areas (CAQM) etc.

Under NCAP, Rs.11.25 cr., Rs.1.96 cr., and Rs. 6.67 cr. has been released for Delhi, Alwar (Rajasthan), Noida (Uttar Pradesh), respectively for improvement of air quality.

15<sup>th</sup> Finance Commission has released an interim grant of Rs. 4400 cr. to 42 Million Plus Urban Agglomerations/cities for Financial Year 2020-21 for taking measures for improving ambient air quality. Further, the 15th Finance Commission has provided grant of Rs. 12,139 cr. for FY 2021-22 to 2025-26 to these 42 Million Plus cities for improving their ambient air quality.

Under 15th-FC grant, Rs.136.25 cr., Rs.85.59 cr. and Rs.54.25 cr. to Ghaziabad (Uttar Pradesh), Meerut (Uttar Pradesh), Faridabad (Haryana) respectively, has been released for improvement of air quality.

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