

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.3697
TO BE ANSWERED ON 22.12.2015

Dust Settled on Trees

3697. SHRI K.R.P. PRABAKARAN:

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

- (a) whether the dust settled on roads and trees is adversely affecting the health of human beings; and
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the reaction of the Government thereto?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) FOR ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

(SHRI PRAKASH JAVADEKAR)

(a) The main sources of dust (particulate matter) include road dust, construction activities, garbage burning, industries, domestic fuel burning etc. This particulate matter settles down including on roads and trees. Air pollution, particularly the particulate matter, is known to be one of the aggravating factors for many respiratory ailments and cardiovascular diseases.

(b) To minimize the impact of environmental pollution particularly air pollution, the Government has *inter alia* taken the following actions:

- Notification of National Ambient Air Quality Standards envisaging 12 pollutants;
- Formulation of regulations/statutes;
- Setting up of monitoring network for assessment of ambient air quality;
- Introduction of cleaner/alternate fuels like gaseous fuel (CNG, LPG, ethanol blend etc.) replacing petrol and diesel;
- Promotion of public transport network of Metro, Buses, E-rickshaws etc.;
- Creation of infrastructure for pollution control like STPs/CETPs/ZLD;
- Promotion of cleaner production processes;

Taking note of the gravity of pollution, the Government has taken some more measures as listed below:

- Launching of Clean India Mission (Swachh Bharat Abhiyan) on 2nd October, 2014;
- Formulation of draft rules for handling and management of municipal wastes including construction and demolition waste rules notified for comments of stakeholders;

- National Air Quality index launched by the Prime Minister in April, 2015 starting with 14 cities;
- Implementation of Bharat Stage IV norms in the 63 selected cities and universalization of BS-IV by 2017;
- MoRTH on 27.11.2015 issued two Draft Notifications issued for advancing the implementation time lines to 2019 for BS- V and 2021 for BS- VI for comments of stakeholders;
- Banning of burning of leaves, biomass, municipal solid waste in Delhi;
- Levying environment compensation charge on goods vehicles entering Delhi;
- Regular co-ordination meetings being held at official and ministerial level with Delhi and other State Governments within the National Capital Region (NCR) and Punjab;
- Short-term plan has been reviewed and long-term plans have been formulated by states to mitigate pollution in NCR;
- Stringent industrial standards have been formulated and notified for public/stakeholder's comments; standards for sugar industry and CETPs have been finalized;
- Government is giving high priority for public partnership in lane discipline, car pooling, vehicle maintenance, pollution under control certification, action against visibly polluting vehicles etc.;
- Out of 3386 major industries, 1782 industries have installed on-line continuous (24x7) monitoring devices; others are in process of installing;
- New standards for thermal power plants have been issued for gazette notification;
