

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA**  
**MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS**  
**RAJYA SABHA**  
**QUESTION NO 26.07.2010**  
**ANSWERED ON**  
**CHECKING DEADLY POLLUTANT PARTICLES IN AIR .**

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SHRI N.K. SINGH

Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :-

- (a) whether the Central Pollution Control Board has found smallest and least visible pollutant particles in the air in major cities;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether such smallest and least visible pollutant particles are causing lung cancer and cardiac ailments; and
- (d) if so, the steps Government/CPCB proposes to take to check deadly pollutant particles in the air?

**ANSWER**

MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) FOR ENVIRONMENT & FORESTS

(SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH)

(a) The ambient air quality is being monitored in major cities of the country under the National Air Monitoring Programme (NAMP) by the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) in association with State Pollution Control Boards/Pollution Control Committees and NEERI. Earlier, dust in ambient air was being monitored as SPM (particulate matter less than 100 micron) and PM10 (particulate matter less than 10 micron) under NAMP. Now, there is a shift to monitoring of PM10 at all locations and PM2.5 (particulate matter less than 2.5 micron), which is also being monitored at select locations.

(b) Levels of PM10 in ambient air in major cities during the last three years is annexed.

(c) As per available literature, PM2.5 may cause respiratory ailments, including cancer, and heart disease. However, no conclusive study reports are available in this regard.

(d) To check the air pollution, various steps have been initiated which include:

i) Notification of emission standards for various categories of industry notified under the Environment (Protection) Rules, 1986;

ii) Drawing up action plans for improvement of the ambient air quality in 16 cities apart from Delhi;

iii) Introduction of cleaner fuels for control of vehicular pollution as per Auto Fuel Policy;

iv) Availability of B.S IV compliant passenger cars in select cities;

v) Enforcement of 'Pollution Under Control (PUC)' certificate scheme to check exhaust emissions from in-use vehicles;

vi) Sale of 2T pre-mix petrol for two stroke two and three wheelers;

vii) Implementation of stringent emission norms for Diesel Generator Sets;

viii) Use of beneficiated coal for coal based thermal power plants;

ix) Implementation of the recommendations of the Charter on Corporate Responsibility for Environment Protection (CREP) for Seventeen Categories of air polluting industries; and

x) Monitoring of air polluting industries for compliance of the emission norms.