GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2836
TO BE ANSWERED ON 21.03.2022

Death caused by Air Pollution

2836. DR. T. SUMATHY (a) THAMIZHACHI THANGAPANDIAN:

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

(a) whether the Government is aware of the premature deaths in India caused by air pollution and if so, the details thereof, State/year-wise;
(b) the details of the percentage of population in urban areas exposed to emissions that exceed the standards set by World Health Organization, State/year wise;
(c) the details of the projects implemented to achieve the target of 20 per cent to 30 per cent reduction in Particulate Matter concentrations by 2024 under the National Clean Air Programme (NCAP), State/year-wise;
(d) whether the city specific action plans under NCAP also includes stakeholders from affected communities like fishermen, workers involved in marine related activities and environmentalists and if so, the details thereof, State/year-wise; and
(e) the number of Smart Cities that have established Integrated Command and Control Centres (ICCCs) connected to Air Quality Monitors (AQMs) for effective Monitoring thereof?

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 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.

Government of India has notified National Ambient Air Quality Standards vide notification No.B-29016/20/90/PCI-I dated 18th November 2009. As per Continuous

Ambient Air Quality Monitoring Stations (CAAQMS) data, out of 132 targeted cities, ambient air quality data in 96 cities showed a decreasing trend of PM10 (Particulate Matter) whereas 36 cities showed an increasing trend of PM10 concentration in 2020-21 as compared to 2019-20. 18 cities were found to be within the prescribed National Ambient Air Quality Standard PM10 less than 60µg/m3) in 2019-20 which has increased to 27 in year 2020-21.

(c) to (e) The Government has launched National Clean Air Programme (NCAP) in 2019 as a national-level strategy to reduce air pollution levels across the country. Several steps are undertaken in the NCAP which *inter alia* includes the following:

- City Specific Clean Air Action Plans have been prepared and rolled out for implementation in 132 non-attainment and million-plus cities. These action plans focus on city-specific short/ medium/ long term actions to control air pollution from sources such as vehicular emission, road dust, burning of biomass/ crop/ garbage/ municipal solid waste, landfills, construction activities, industrial emission, etc.

- Under NCAP, Centre level Steering Committee, Monitoring Committee and Implementation Committee have been constituted and periodic review of the implementation progress is conducted. Also, a State Level Steering Committee and Monitoring Committee chaired by Chief Secretary and Principal Secretary, Environment Department are constituted. City/ District level Implementation Committee chaired by Municipal Commissioner/ District Magistrate is constituted, which periodically review the status of progress of implementation of actions under NCAP. These committees have participation of stakeholders.

- Rs. 418.60 crore 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.

- 15th Finance Commission (XV-FC) has identified 42 Urban Agglomerations (UA) with million plus population for performance based grants based on improvement in air quality for period FY 2020-21 to 2025-26 under Million-Plus Cities Challenge Fund (MPCCF). Funds to the tune of Rs. 12,139 crore have been allocated for the said purpose. For 2021-22, funds to the tune of Rs. 2217 crore have been allocated. Rs. 4400 crore were disbursed during 2020-21 to these cities.

- PRANA, a portal for monitoring implementation of NCAP has been launched.

The Government has taken several steps for mitigation of air pollution which include the introduction of BS-VI norms for fuel and vehicles since April 2020; promotion of E-vehicles; expansion of network of Metro rails for public transport; promotion of cleaner fuels such as PNG; stringent emission norms for industries including coal-based Thermal Power Plants (TPPs); zig-zag technology for brick kilns; Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) for plastic and e-waste management; real-time monitoring of major polluting industries, etc. Details of measures taken by the Government for air quality management are at **Annexure I.**

Integrated Command and Control Centres (ICCCs) have been operationalized by 76 Smart cities.

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ANNEXURE - I

Annexure - I referred in reply to part (c) to (e) of the Lok Sabha Unstarred Question No. 2836 due for answer on 21.03.2022 regarding 'Death caused by Air pollution'

Measures taken by the Government for Air Quality Management

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.

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.
- Shifting of industrial units to PNG.
- Installation of online continuous emission monitoring devices in highly polluting industries.
- Shifting of Brick kilns to zig-zag technology for reduction of pollution

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 as waste processing plants.
- Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) for plastic and e-waste management.
- Ban on burning of biomass/garbage.

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.
- Sustainable Alternative Towards Affordable Transportation (SATAT) has been launched as an initiative to set up Compressed Bio-Gas (CBG) production plants and make CBG available in the market for use in automotive fuels.

Monitoring of Ambient Air Quality

- Expansion of air quality monitoring network of manual as well as continuous monitoring stations under programmes such as National Air Monitoring Programme (NAMP).
- Initiation of pilot projects to assess alternate ambient monitoring technologies such as low-cost sensors and satellite-based monitoring.
- Implementation of Air Quality Early Warning System for Delhi, Kanpur and Lucknow. The system provides alerts for taking timely actions.