

Air Pollution in Metropolitians

†1833. SHRI DWIJENDRA NATH SHARMAH:
SHRI KRIPAL PARMAR:

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

(a) whether Government are aware of the increasing air pollution in four metropolitan of Delhi, Mumbai, Kolkata and Chennai;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) on which date the study on pollution was conducted and whether Government propose to conduct any new study on pollution; and

(d) whether any time-bound programme to decrease air pollution has been formulated, if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) and (b) The ambient air quality monitoring carried out in four metro cities, namely, Delhi, Kolkata, Chennai and Mumbai indicated that generally there is no increase in air pollution levels in these cities. However, some parameters in Kolkata and Mumbai have shown an increase compared to the previous year.

(c) The Central Pollution Control Board is regularly monitoring ambient air quality in these four metro cities under National Air Quality Monitoring Programme (NAMP).

(d) The Government has taken various steps to control air pollution in the country, including the four metro cities, which are given below:—

- Environmental Action Plans to control pollution have been prepared in respect of Delhi, Chennai, Mumbai and Kolkata.
- Emission Standards have been notified under the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 to check air pollution.
- A network of Ambient Air Quality Monitoring Stations has been established and air quality monitoring is carried by Central Pollution Control Board in coordination with the State Pollution Control Boards at 295 stations in 96 cities/towns of the country.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

- Emission standards for on-road vehicles and mass emission standards for new vehicles have been notified Under the Motor Vehicles Act, 1988 and are enforced by Transport Departments of the State Governments.
- Unleaded petrol is supplied in the entire country from 1.2.2000 and diesel with 0.25% sulphur maximum content is supplied from 1.1.2000 in the entire country. Ultra low sulphur (0.05%) fuel (Petrol and diesel) has also been introduced in major cities.
- Compressed Natural Gas (CNG) is supplied for automobiles through a number of retail outlets in Delhi and Mumbai to cater to the CNG vehicle.
- Benzene concentration in Petrol has been reduced.
- India 2000 norms akin to Euro-I norms for registration of four wheeled private (non-commercial) vehicles were made effective from 1.6.1999 in National Capital Region (NCR) and after 1.4.2000 in the entire country.
- Bharat Stage II norms akin in Euro-II norms for registration of four wheeled private (non-commercial) vehicles were made effective from 1.4.2000 in NCR, in Mumbai (including Greater Mumbai) made effective from 1.1.2001, and in Kolkata and Chennai from 1st July, 2001.
- Bharat Stage II emission norms akin to Euro-II norms for heavy vehicles have been made effective from 24.10.2001 in respect of National Capital Territory of Delhi, and in Mumbai (including Greater Mumbai), Kolkata and Chennai from 31.10.2001.
- Emission norms for Compressed Natural Gas (CNG) driven vehicles have been made effective from 9.2.2000.
- Comprehensive emission norms for CNG driven vehicles including safety and procedural requirements for type approval of CNG and LPG operated vehicles were notified on 19.11.2001.
- Emission norms for Liquefied Petroleum GAS (LPG) driven vehicles have been notified on 24.4.2001.