

**Damage to troposphere**

†2542. SHRI KAPTAN SINGH SOLANKI: Will the Minister of EARTH SCIENCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the natural state of troposphere layer in the atmosphere is deteriorating due to indiscriminate urbanisation, automobile pollution and pesticide units;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government has formulated any strategy, taking this issue seriously, to deal with the situation; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF EARTH SCIENCES (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Ozone is a naturally occurring gas found in the troposphere and other parts of the atmosphere. Tropospheric ozone is often called "bad" ozone because it can damage living tissue and break down certain materials. With increasing populations, more automobiles, and more industrial activities, ozone concentration is on increase in the lower atmosphere. Since 1900 the amount of ozone near the earth's surface has more than doubled in the global sense. Tropospheric, or ground level ozone, is not emitted directly into the air, but is created by chemical reactions between oxides of Nitrogen (NO<sub>x</sub>) and Volatile Organic Compounds (VOC). Ozone is likely to reach unhealthy levels on hot sunny days in urban environments and low temperature (freezing) high altitude zones during winters under typical conditions. Ozone can also be transported long distances by wind. For this reason, even rural areas can experience high ozone levels.

Presence of excessive ozone, above 0.075ppm (parts per million) as per US-EPA standards, affects sensitive vegetation and ecosystems, including forests, parks, wildlife refuges and wilderness areas. In particular, ozone harms sensitive vegetation, including trees and plants during the growing season. People with lung disease, children, older adults, and people who are active outdoors may become particularly sensitive to ozone.

(c) Yes, Sir.

---

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(d) Government has initiated several steps to cut NO<sub>x</sub> and VOC emissions from vehicles, industrial facilities, and electric utilities. Programs are also aimed at reducing pollution by reformulating fuels (lead free/low sulphur) and consumer/commercial products, such as paints and chemical solvents that contain VOC.

#### **Impact of digitization of cable television network**

†2543. SHRI RAMCHANDRA PRASAD SINGH: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the implementation of digitization system in the country by Government has left common viewers helpless;

(b) if so, the Government's reaction in this regard; and

(c) whether it is also a fact that, now the common viewers would have to accept those packages in the formation of which they have no role at all?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI MANISH TEWARI): (a) to (c) The Ministry of Information and Broadcasting is implementing digitization in the cable TV sector in a phased time-bound manner with the complete switch off of analogue cable TV services by 31st December, 2014. The digitalization of cable TV service will be an important milestone where the consumers and other stakeholders will be immensely benefited. For the consumers digital cable TV would bring a host of benefits like improved picture and sound quality, multiple choices of channels, internet, movies and games on demand etc. In order to facilitate the consumers and provide a regulated environment for the implementation of digitization TRAI has issued necessary regulations and tariff orders. TRAI's Telecommunication (Broadcasting and Cable) Services (Fourth) (Addressable Systems) Tariff Order, 2010 dated 21st July, 2010, as amended on 30.4.2012, regulates tariff and pricing for the digital cable TV Systems. This tariff order in clause 6(1) mandates service providers to offer all channels (pay and free to air) on a-la-carte basis to subscribers. The tariff order in clause 6(1A) also provides that the operators of digital addressable cable TV systems would offer to the consumers a Basic-Service-Tier (BST) comprising of minimum 100 free-to-air (FTA) channels, at a maximum charge of Rs. 100/- (excluding taxes) per subscriber per month. The tariff order stipulates in clause 6(1B) that it shall be open to the subscriber to choose any combination of free to air channels upto one hundred

---

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.