

**Pollution linked to fog cover**

2811. SHRI RAMA CHANDRA KHUNTIA : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether pollution is linked to fog cover in capital Delhi, whether it is a fact that P.M.I.O., PM 2.5 and Black Carbon have increased abnormally in Delhi and mostly MP 205 emissions are from the transport sector which was highest and growing followed by burning of biomass and construction work and infrastructure project; and

(b) if so, the strategy of Government to check the pollution in the National Capital of Delhi?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI M. VEERAPPA MOILY) : (a) Ambient air quality in capital Delhi is monitored by the Central Pollution Control Board, the Delhi Pollution Control Committee, the National Environment Engineering Research Institute (NEERI), Nagpur and Indian Institute of Tropical Management (IITM), Pune. The air pollutants, namely PM<sub>10</sub> and PM<sub>25</sub> are listed under the national ambient air quality standards. Black Carbon is reportedly monitored by IITM for weather forecasting. As per available data, there is mixed trend in the levels of PM<sub>10</sub> and PM<sub>25</sub> at different locations in the capital Delhi.

(b) To control air pollution in Delhi, various steps have been taken by the Government which *inter-alia* include; use of coal fired boilers banned unless fitted with electro static precipitator; closure of 1328 hazardous, noxious and heavy/large industries; closure of a coal based Indraprastha Thermal Power Plant; banning of burning of leaves/biomass; registering only B.S. III/IV compliant two/three wheelers and cars in Delhi with effect from 01.04.2010; insistence on dust control measures in construction projects; strengthening network of metro trains as a means of public transport; use of natural gas as fuel in bus, taxis and autos for public transport; etc.

**Disposing of bio-medical wastes**

2812. DR. R. LAKSHMANAN : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that Government has intensified surprise check of

hospitals across the country to ascertain whether provisions of Bio-Medical Waste (Management and Handling) Rules, 1988 are strictly followed in disposing off biomedical wastes subsequent to the order of the National Green Tribunal;

(b) if so, the details of the surprise check undertaken by Government;

(c) whether it was found that some/few hospitals are not following the prescribed procedure in disposing the bio-medical wastes; and

(d) if so, the details of action taken by Government against such defaulting hospitals?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI M. VEERAPPA MOILY) : (a) to (d) In compliance with the orders of National Green Tribunal (NGT) in Appeal No. 63 of 2012, during the year 2013, the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) along with the concerned State Pollution Control Board/Pollution Control Committee has inspected sixty eight Health Care Facilities (HCFs) in Delhi, Haryana, Uttar Pradesh and Rajasthan. As per the inspections these HCFs were not complying with the Bio-medical Waste (Management and Handling) Rules, 1998, as amended. The inspection reports were submitted to NGT. All HCFs have been directed by NGT to take necessary corrective measures to comply with the rules.

#### **Lead role of women under Van Panchayats**

2813. SHRIMATI T. RATNA BAI :

SHRI MOHD. ALI KHAN :

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

(a) whether it is a fact that women are taking the lead role in reviving and maintaining civil forests under Van Panchayats even in the face of several obstacles; and

(b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise ?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI M. VEERAPPA MOILY) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Presently, Van Panchayats are existing only in Uttarakhand. As per information provided by the Forest Department, Government of