

monitoring systems in National Capital Region (NCR) including Delhi by the CPCB in association with SPCBs of NCR States, DPCC, National Environmental Engineering Research Institute and System of Air Quality and Weather Forecasting and Research. Taking note of the gravity of air pollution in NCT of Delhi, a series of measures have been taken including regular review meetings at official and Ministerial level with NCR States and NCT of Delhi.

Monitoring of air quality in Delhi

1630. SHRI BAISHNAB PARIDA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has put in place a system to monitor air quality in Delhi and its NCR areas;
- (b) whether this system has regularly been updated to assess air pollution; and
- (c) what are the details of stringent measures that have been taken to control pollution in Delhi?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE (SHRI PRAKASH JAVADEKAR): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The ambient air quality is being regularly monitored with manual and continuous air quality monitoring systems in National Capital Region (NCR) including Delhi by the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) in association with State Pollution Control Boards of NCR States, Delhi Pollution Control Committee (DPCC), National Environmental Engineering Research Institute (NEERI) and System of Air Quality and Weather Forecasting and Research (SAFAR). The CAAQMS established by CPCB, DPCC, NEERI and SAFAR in Delhi have been upgraded considering the parameters notified under National Ambient Air Quality Standards and are regularly updated to assess the air pollution.

(c) The measures taken by the Government to control air pollution in Delhi and NCR *inter alia* include the following:-

- (i) Notification of National Ambient Air Quality Standards envisaging 12 pollutants;
- (ii) Formulation of environmental regulations/statutes;
- (iii) Setting up of monitoring network for assessment of ambient air quality;
- (iv) Introduction of cleaner/alternate fuels like gaseous fuel (CNG, LPG etc.), ethanol blend etc.;
- (v) Promotion of cleaner production processes.

Taking note of the gravity of air pollution, the Government has taken some more measures which include:

- (i) Launched National Air Quality Index by the Prime Minister in April, 2015;
- (ii) Implementation of Bharat Stage IV (BS-IV) norms in 63 selected cities including Delhi/cities of NCR and universalization of BS-IV by 2017;
- (iii) Decision taken to leapfrog directly from BS-IV to BS-VI fuel standards by 1st April, 2020;
- (iv) Taxing polluting vehicles and incentivizing hybrid and electric vehicles.
- (v) Comprehensive amendments to various Waste Management Rules including Municipal Solid Waste, Plastic Waste, Hazardous Waste, Bio-medical Waste and Electronic Waste notified;
- (vi) Notification of Construction and Demolition Waste Management Rules;
- (vii) Ban on burning of leaves, biomass, Municipal solid waste;
- (viii) Promotion of public transport network of metro, buses, e-rickshaws and promotion of car pooling, Pollution Under Control, lane discipline, vehicle maintenance;
- (ix) Revision of existing environmental standards and formulation of new standards for prevention and control of pollution from industries;
- (x) Regular co-ordination meetings at official and Ministerial level with Delhi and other State Governments within the NCR;
- (xi) Issuance of directions under Section 5 of Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 and under Section 18(1)(b) of Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974 and Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1981;
- (xii) Installation of on-line continuous (24x7) monitoring devices by major industries;
- (xiii) Setting up of a control room in CPCB to review and monitor air quality in the NCR.

Drafting of new forest policy

1631. SHRI HUSAIN DALWAI: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the process of drafting the new forest policy is completed;
- (b) if so, the salient features thereof; and