

Rising pollution in Delhi

1315. SHRI OSCAR FERNANDES: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has shown concern towards rising air pollution in Delhi due to which people's daily lives have been affected and if so, the details thereof;

(b) what measures have been taken to tackle the pollution by Government; and

(c) whether Government is planning to launch a scheme with regard to this issue and if so, the quantum of funds required for such a scheme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE (SHRI ANIL MADHAV DAVE): (a) and (b) Air Pollution in Delhi has been a cause of concern. The Government has taken a number of measures to address the issue which, *inter alia*, include issuance of statutory directions under Section 18 (1)(b) of Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1981, for implementation of various activities to mitigate the level of pollution including notification of National Ambient Air Quality Standards; formulation of environmental regulations/statutes; setting up of monitoring network for assessment of ambient air quality; introduction of cleaner/alternate fuels like gaseous fuel (CNG, LPG etc.), ethanol blending; promotion of cleaner production processes; launching of National Air Quality Index; universalization of BS-IV by 2017; leapfrogging from BS-IV to BS-VI fuel standards by 1st April, 2020; comprehensive amendments to various Waste Management Rules and notification of Construction and Demolition Waste Management Rules; banning of burning of leaves, biomass, municipal solid waste; promotion of public transport and network of metro, e-rickshaws, promotion of carpooling, Pollution Under Control Certificate, lane discipline, vehicle maintenance; regular co-ordination meetings at official and Ministerial level with Delhi and other State Governments within the NCR; issuance of directions under Section 18(1)(b) of Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1981 and under Section 5 of Environment (Protection) Act, 1986; installation of on-line continuous (24x7) monitoring devices by major industries; collection of Environmental Protection Charge on more than 2000 CC diesel vehicles; and ban on bursting of sound emitting crackers between 10 PM to 6 AM; and constitution of centralized monitoring committee and State monitoring committee etc.

(c) No such scheme is under consideration of the Government.