

Rise of pollution levels in Guwahati

*51. SHRI BHUBANESWAR KALITA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware of the alarming rise of pollution levels in Guwahati;

(b) whether Government is also aware of increase of pollution due to industries and absence of any scientific mechanism for solid waste management in Guwahati, causing serious health hazards for the people; and

(c) if so, whether Government would consider issuing some directives to Government of Assam to immediately initiate effective steps to check the pollution level at Guwahati?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE (DR. HARSH VARDHAN): (a) to (c) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) Government is aware of problem of pollution levels in Guwahati. Guwahati has been identified as non-attainment city with respect to PM¹⁰, requiring proper air quality management. Status of ambient air quality at various locations in Guwahati is given in the Annexure (*See below*). Brahmaputra river and its tributaries in Guwahati city have been identified as polluted river stretches.

(b) and (c) Government has notified Solid Waste Management Rules, 2016, for management of Solid Waste in India. Directions have been issued to Assam State Pollution Control Board, under Section 18(1)(b) of the Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974 regarding treatment and utilization of sewage; directions for abatement of air pollution under Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1981, under Section 5 of the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 to the Commissioner Guwahati Municipal Corporation for implementation of Solid Waste Management Rules, 2016 and regarding treatment and utilization of sewage for restoration of water quality of river; and to the Additional Chief Secretary, Environment and Forest, Government of Assam for setting up of Hazardous Waste Treatment, Storage and Disposal Facility.

Annexure

Status of ambient air quality in Guwahati in Assam
(Annual Average concentration in $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$)

State	Location	SO ₂	NO ₂	PM ₁₀
2013				
Guwahati	Head Office, Bamunimaidam	7	16	166
	Boragaon, IASST, Kamrup	7	15	120
	Guwahati University, Kamrup	7	15	118
	ITI Building, Gopinath Nagar	7	18	169
	Khanapara, Central Dairy, Kamrup	7	15	135
	Near Pragjyotish College, Santipur	7	15	139
Annual Average		7	16	141
2014				
Guwahati	Head Office, Bamunimaidam	7	13	108
	Boragaon, IASST, Kamrup	6	12	42
	Guwahati University, Kamrup	7	14	75
	ITI Building, Gopinath Nagar	7	15	106
	Khanapara, Central Dairy, Kamrup	7	15	110
	Near Pragjyotish College, Santipur	7	13	86
Annual Average		7	14	88
2015				
Guwahati	Head Office, Bamunimaidam	7	14	98
	Boragaon, IASST, Kamrup	8	14	91
	Guwahati University, Kamrup	7	15	94
	ITI Building, Gopinath Nagar	7	14	96
	Khanapara, Central Dairy, Kamrup	7	15	112
	Near Pragjyotish College, Santipur	7	14	93
Annual Average		7	14	97
2016				
Guwahati	Head Office, Bamunimaidam	8	17	98
	Boragaon, IASST, Kamrup	8	17	96

State	Location	SO ₂	NO ₂	PM ₁₀
	Guwahati University, Kamrup	8	19	105
	ITI Building, Gopinath Nagar	8	18	122
	Khanapara, Central Dairy, Kamrup	8	18	109
	Near Pragjyotish College, Santipur	8	16	102
	Annual Average	8	17	105
2017				
Guwahati	Head Office, Bamunimaidam	7	16	116
	Boragaon, IASST, Kamrup	7	17	99
	Guwahati University, Kamrup	7	17	94
	ITI Building, Gopinath Nagar	7	16	123
	Khanapara, Central Dairy, Kamrup	7	16	101
	Near Pragjyotish College, Santipur	7	16	101
	Annual Average	7	16	106

SHRI BHUBANESWAR KALITA: Sir, from the reply given by the Minister, I can understand that the responsibility has been bestowed upon the State Government. ...*(Interruptions)*... The Brahmaputra river flows through Guwahati. In the reply, it has been admitted that Brahmaputra river and its tributaries in Guwahati city have been identified as polluted river stretches. ...*(Interruptions)*... So, the Ministry has agreed that pollution is there. But the number of centres that have been established to monitor is not sufficient. Only six centres have been put up there. ...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. CHAIRMAN: What is your question?

SHRI BHUBANESWAR KALITA: Sir, my question is: Will the Minister impress upon the State Government or their Department, the Central Pollution Control Board, to increase the number of centres to monitor the pollution in Guwahati city? ...*(Interruptions)*...

DR. HARSH VARDHAN: Sir, I would like to inform the Member that in Guwahati city, six stations are, in fact, identified as polluted, out of which one station is from the river and remaining five are from the streams. ...*(Interruptions)*... If he wants, I can name them also. ...*(Interruptions)*... As far as providing Central support to them is concerned, we have already apprised the State Government about it. ...*(Interruptions)*... The State Government has already sent us an action plan for seeking our help. ...*(Interruptions)*... We have given them some suggestions about

asking for timeliness, etc., of the projects and as soon as we get the reply from them, the Central Government is going to help them for taking care of these polluted stretches. *...(Interruptions)...* Also, the NRCD has asked the State Government to submit a revised programme which I have said just now. *...(Interruptions)...*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Second supplementary. *...(Interruptions)...* The question pertains to Guwahati and Assam. *...(Interruptions)...*

SHRI BHUBANESWAR KALITA: Sir, Guwahati is known for its flood-prone situation. *...(Interruptions)...* That is why in every summer, in every rainy season, in Guwahati City, all the sewerage, all the drains are full of water and the drains become the road. *...(Interruptions)...* All the solid waste comes to the road and it becomes totally unusable and polluted. *...(Interruptions)...* I want to know whether the Government has formed some committees for monitoring all these and responsibilities have been bestowed on some officials of the State Government. *...(Interruptions)...* My question is whether the Government has received any feedback of those instructions that have been sent by the Government of India for controlling the pollution there, particularly, management of sewerage and solid waste. *...(Interruptions)...* I want to know whether the Government of India has received any reply, and if it has received, what is the reply of the State Government? *...(Interruptions)...*

DR. HARSH VARDHAN: Respected Sir, let me inform the hon. Member that as far as the Government of India is concerned, in 2016 and 2017, we have revised all the Waste Management Rules whether it is a solid waste or an electronic waste or a plastic waste or any type of waste. We have already notified these rules. *...(Interruptions)...* We have communicated to the State Government also. *...(Interruptions)...* There is a Committee for monitoring at the Central level; there is a Committee for monitoring at the State level. *...(Interruptions)...* In fact, in Guwahati itself, we have organized a big workshop also. *...(Interruptions)...* Apart from that, at six other places in the country, we are continuously in touch with the State Government and as per our information, the State Government has already instructed the Municipal Corporations to develop sewage treatment plants for the sewage waste because that is the main source of pollution in the rivers and the nullahs. *...(Interruptions)...* In fact, there is not much of industrial pollution in Guwahati. *...(Interruptions)...* But the action that is deemed necessary at the level of the State Government, it is being initiated by them and we are in touch with the State Government on a regular basis. *...(Interruptions)...*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Jairam Ramesh. *...(Interruptions)...*

SHRI BHUBANESWAR KALITA: Sir, Sir, *...(Interruptions)...*

MR. CHAIRMAN: You had your second supplementary also. *...(Interruptions)...*

SHRI BHUBANESWAR KALITA: Sir, he had not replied my question. ...*(Interruptions)*... I wanted to know whether ... *(Interruptions)*...

MR. CHAIRMAN: Two questions are over. ...*(Interruptions)*... Kalitaji, your two questions are over. ...*(Interruptions)*... Shri Jairam Ramesh. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH: Sir, my question is Guwahati-specific. As soon as you land in Guwahati and enter the city, you see a large wetland. ...*(Interruptions)*... It is Deepor Beel, one of India's most well known wetland. It is like Kolleru in your own home State. ...*(Interruptions)*... Sir, this is a Ramsar site but it is highly polluted and there is heavy encroachment. ...*(Interruptions)*... I want to know from the hon. Minister what steps he is taking to ensure that the Deepor Beel wetland is free from pollution and encroachment. ...*(Interruptions)*...

DR. HARSH VARDHAN: Sir, I think I have already admitted in the answer to the question that definitely there is a level of pollution whether it is pertaining to air or the Brahmaputra River. ...*(Interruptions)*... As far as the Central Government is concerned, we issue guidelines, we monitor, we fund the States and we are doing everything possible at our end. ...*(Interruptions)*... We are also continuously monitoring the whole situation. We are advising them. ...*(Interruptions)*... We are asking for their proposals. I think the State Government is also actively pursuing the whole issue with us. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI MANAS RANJAN BHUNIA: Sir, we got every detail on Brahmaputra and Guwahati. What are the steps taken by the Department in relation to the Ganga Action Plan and to make the holy River Ganges free from pollution? ...*(Interruptions)*...

DR. HARSH VARDHAN: Sir, this question is not related to the basic question. I think it needs a detailed reply by the concerned Ministry, but I can only say that the Government of India has made a very detailed Action Plan for cleaning the River Ganga and we have done significantly well. There are already perceptible and measurable changes that can be seen in the Ganga Basin. ...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shrimati Vandana Chavan. ...*(Interruptions)*... Shrimati Chavan, this is concerned with Assam and not Maharashtra. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRIMATI VANDANA CHAVAN: But, Sir, my question is pertinent. ...*(Interruptions)*... Sir, though this question may not be related to Guwahati, a recent WHO report has revealed that of the 20 most polluted cities in the world, 14 are in India, and so, the Ministry needs to make some holistic plan for all the cities so that we do not become a death trap and a gas chamber. ...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. CHAIRMAN: That is not directly connected with the question. The question is specifically about Guwahati and Assam. You can make a suggestion. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRIMATI VANDANA CHAVAN: Sir, this is a WHO report. ...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. CHAIRMAN: Let us go to the next question. Question No. 52.

विज्ञापनों के लिए बजट का आबंटन

*52. श्री हरिवंश: क्या सूचना और प्रसारण मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) विगत तीन वर्षों के दौरान मंत्रालय के लिए आबंटित किए गए विज्ञापन संबंधी बजट का ब्यौरा क्या है; और

(ख) उक्त बजट में से कितनी धनराशि अंग्रेजी भाषा और अन्य क्षेत्रीय भाषाओं के समाचार-पत्रों के विज्ञापनों पर व्यय की गई है?

सूचना और प्रसारण मंत्रालय के राज्य मंत्री (कर्नल राज्यवर्धन सिंह राठौड़): (क) और (ख) एक विवरण सभा पटल पर रख दिया गया है।

विवरण

(क) सूचना और प्रसारण मंत्रालय तथा भारत सरकार के अन्य ग्राहक मंत्रालयों/विभागों द्वारा मुहैया कराई गई निधियों का उपयोग करते हुए गत तीन वर्षों के दौरान सूचना और प्रसारण मंत्रालय के अंतर्गत लोक संपर्क और संचार ब्यूरो (बीओसी) द्वारा विज्ञापनों पर किए गए व्यय का ब्यौरा निम्नानुसार है:-

	(करोड़ रुपये में)		
व्यय	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18
सूचना और प्रसारण मंत्रालय द्वारा मुहैया कराए गए बजट में से	176.55	181.29	153.10
अन्य ग्राहक मंत्रालयों/विभागों द्वारा मुहैया कराए गए बजट में से	1013.98	1098.54	1184.16
कुल	1190.53	1279.83	1337.26

(ख) सूचना और प्रसारण मंत्रालय तथा अन्य ग्राहक मंत्रालयों/विभागों द्वारा मुहैया कराए गए उक्त बजट में से अंग्रेजी भाषा तथा अन्य क्षेत्रीय भाषाओं के समाचारपत्रों में विज्ञापनों पर व्यय की गई राशि का ब्यौरा क्रमशः अनुलग्नक-I और अनुलग्नक-II में दिया गया है।