

1	2	3	4
5.	9.	Covered under DPR for widening work	DPR study for Elevated/8-laning is in progress for Tambaram-Tindivanam section of NH-45. While finalizing DPR, appropriate measures will be taken for elimination of black spots.
6.	10.	Estimates under preparation	Estimates are under preparation for these works.
7.	10.	Permanent measures, not required	Permanent measures are not required.
8.	13.	Approval to be sought	Estimates are under scrutiny at RO/PIU level.
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Deaths due to high carbon emission

†*126. SHRI RAM NATH THAKUR: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Indian cities are witnessing an alarming increase in the number of deaths due to high carbon emission and vehicular pollution;

(b) whether Government is aware of the media reports published recently, stating that excessive carbon emission is making air toxic; and

(c) if so, the steps being taken by Government to deal with this dangerous situation?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE (DR. HARSH VARDHAN): (a) to (c) An article titled 'Nations within a nation: variations in epidemiological transition across the States of India, 1990-2016 in the Global Burden of Disease Study' was published in the Lancet journal in December, 2017. The article reported that five leading risk factors for Disability-Adjusted Life Years (DALYs) in 2016 are child and maternal malnutrition, air pollution, dietary risks, high systolic blood pressure, and high fasting plasma glucose. The article also states that though the levels of exposure in India is among the highest in the world, the DALY due to air pollution decreased by 23.6% in India from 1990 to 2016.

There are no conclusive data available in the country to establish direct correlation

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

of death/disease exclusively due to air pollution/carbon emission. However, air pollution could be one of the triggering factors for respiratory ailments and associated diseases. Health effects of air pollution are synergistic manifestation of factors which include food habits, occupational habits, socio-economic status, medical history, immunity, heredity, etc., of the individuals.

Government is formulating National Clean Air Programme (NCAP) as a long term time bound national level strategy to tackle increasing air pollution across the country in comprehensive manner. The overall objective is to augment and evolve effective ambient air quality monitoring network across the country besides ensuring comprehensive management plan for prevention, control and abatement of air pollution. The NCAP focuses on collaborative and participatory approach comprising all sources of pollution and coordination between relevant Central Ministries, State Governments, local bodies and other stakeholders. Government has further taken several steps to address air pollution which *inter alia*, include notification of Graded Response Action Plan for different levels of air pollution in NCR; notification of National Ambient Air Quality Standards; setting up of monitoring network for assessment of ambient air quality; introduction of cleaner/alternate fuels like gaseous fuel (CNG, LPG etc.), ethanol blending, 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; notification of Construction and Demolition Waste Management Rules; banning of burning of biomass; promotion of public transport network; streamlining the issuance of Pollution Under Control Certificate; 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; notification of about 115 emission/effluent norms for 104 different sectors besides 32 General Standards and special measures for critically polluted areas, etc.

Inter-linking of rivers

*127. DR. VIKAS MAHATME: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES, RIVER DEVELOPMENT AND GANGA REJUVENATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is considering inter-linking of rivers and if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether any feasibility report has been prepared for intra-State river linking in such cases and if so, the details thereof, State-wise; and

(c) the impact of such intra-State linking of rivers on the neighbouring States?