

Pollution Control Board (CPCB), State Pollution Control Boards (SPCBs) and Authorities under Graded Response Action Plan to take immediate action for prosecution of the nodal agencies that are not taking the issues of air pollution seriously. Show-cause notices have been issued by CPCB for prosecution to four agencies namely Northern Railways, Delhi State Industrial and Infrastructure Development Corporation Ltd. (DSIIDC), National Highways Authority of India on 12.11.2018 and to Irrigation and Flood Control Department, Government of National Capital Territory, Delhi on 03.12.2018.

(d) The Government has taken various measures to control air pollution which *inter alia*, include notification of Graded Response Action Plan for different levels of air pollution in Delhi and 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 from 2017; leapfrogging from BS-IV to BS-VI fuel standards since 1st April, 2018 in National Capital Territory of Delhi and from by 1st April, 2020 in the rest of the country; notification of Construction and Demolition Waste Management Rules; banning of burning of biomass; notifications regarding mandatory implementation of dust mitigation measures for construction and demolition activities; 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, etc. Eastern Peripheral Expressway and Western Peripheral Expressway have also become operational. The Central Government has also notified a Comprehensive Action Plan (CAP) identifying timelines and implementing agency for actions identified for prevention, control and mitigation of air pollution in Delhi and NCR.

#### **State Government's requests for artificial rain**

2780. SHRI T. RATHINAVEL: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that Government is considering to allow the State Governments for creating artificial rain for various needs;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether it is also a fact that the need for artificial rain is felt, at times to clear the air pollution; and

- (d) if so, the request received in this regard from the State Governments?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE (DR. MAHESH SHARMA): (a) and (b) There is no proposal from State Governments for creating artificial rain for various needs under consideration in this Ministry.

(c) and (d) It is generally observed that rainfall results in lowering of the concentration of the pollutants in the atmosphere. As on date, no proposal has been received in this regard from State Governments in this Ministry. However, PAAC-EPC (Project Appraisal and Approval Committee constituted for the utilization of Environment Protection Charge fund) in its meeting on 13th November 2018 approved, in-principle, a project of IIT Kanpur for artificial rain in Delhi region.

**Acts for environmental protection of waterways and rivers**

2781. SHRI RAJMANI PATEL: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE be pleased to state:

(a) whether despite a number of prevailing Acts intended to protect India's waterways, the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) and State Pollution Control Boards (SPCBs) have not ensured their effective implementation and if so, the reasons therefor;

(b) whether a more ecologically by sound approach towards environmental protection of flows of rivers is necessary; and

- (c) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE (DR. MAHESH SHARMA): (a) The Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974 as well as various rules notified under Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 intend to protect aquatic resources in the country. Rivers including waterways in the country are mainly polluted due to discharge of untreated and partially treated sewage from cities/towns, industrial effluents and non-point sources such as agricultural run-off.

Development of adequate infrastructure for treatment of wastewater, on the other hand, is not commensurate with the increasing wastewater generation especially by urban settlements. Further, lean flow in rivers during pre-monsoon and post-monsoon period reduces the assimilation of the pollution load.