

**Commitment of India at WSDS**

2415. SHRI HARSHVARDHAN SINGH DUNGARPUR: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE be pleased to state:

- (a) Commitment of India at World Sustainable Development Summit (WSDS) to protect the environment;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the action taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE (SHRI BABUL SUPRIYO): (a) and (b) A think tank based in Delhi has organised an event named World Sustainable Development Summit (WSDS) in February, 2019. Government has not made any specific commitments in the Summit.

(c) Government is committed to the protection of Environment. Towards this, the Ministry is implementing policies and programmes relating to conservation of the country's natural resources including its lakes and rivers, its biodiversity, forests and wildlife, ensuring the welfare of animals, and the prevention and abatement of pollution. While implementing these policies and programmes, the Ministry is guided by the principle of sustainable development and enhancement of human well-being.

**Pollution in Delhi**

2416. SHRI OSCAR FERNANDES: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that pollution has become very alarming in Delhi;
- (b) if so, proposals of Government to tackle this alarming pollution;
- (c) the percentage of green cover in Delhi and whether the percentage of green cover has decreased or increased during the last three years and the plans of Government to increase the green cover in Delhi; and
- (d) proposal of Government to tackle the water pollution in the capital?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE (SHRI BABUL SUPRIYO): (a) Central Government has taken a number of regulatory measures for prevention, control and abatement of air pollution.

As a result of these steps in Delhi, the number of 'Good', 'Satisfactory', and 'Moderate' days has increased to 159 in 2018, as compared to 152 in 2017 and 106 in 2016, and the number of 'Poor', 'Very Poor' and 'Severe' days has reduced to 206, compared to 213 in 2017 and 246 in 2016. Analysis of Ambient air quality data of Delhi monitored under Continuous Ambient Air Quality Monitoring Stations (CAAQMS) during 2016-2018 revealed that there is reduction of 7.3 % in  $PM_{2.5}$  levels in 2018 over 2017 and 14.8% over 2016 and reduction of 8.6% in  $PM_{10}$  levels in 2018 over 2017 and 16.5% over 2016.

(b) The Central Government has taken a number of regulatory measures for prevention, control and abatement of air pollution in the country. These include-

#### **Action Plans for Improvement of Air Quality in Delhi NCR:**

- (i) Graded Response Action Plan (GRAP) was notified on January 12, 2017, for prevention, control and abatement of air pollution in Delhi and NCR. It identifies graded measures and implementing agencies for response to four AQI categories, namely, Moderate to Poor, Very Poor, Severe and Severe + or Emergency.
- (ii) The Central Government has notified a Comprehensive Action Plan (CAP) in 2018 identifying timelines and implementing agencies for actions identified for prevention, control and mitigation of air pollution in Delhi and NCR.

#### **Monitoring**

- Setting up of monitoring network for assessment of ambient air quality. Presently, ambient air quality is being monitored at 779 locations covering 339 cities in 29 States and 6 Union Territories across the country under National Air Quality Monitoring Programme (NAMMP). Further, real time monitoring is taking place at 170 locations in 102 cities in 18 States/UTs.
- Notification of National Ambient Air Quality Standards.
- Launch of National Air Quality Index.
- Implementation of Air Quality Early Warning System for Delhi in October, 2018 in association with Ministry of Earth Sciences (MoES).

#### **Transport**

- Leapfrogging from BS-IV to BS-VI fuel standards since 1st April, 2018 in NCT of Delhi and from by 1st April, 2020 in the rest of the country.

- Introduction of cleaner / alternate fuels like gaseous fuel (CNG, LPG etc.), ethanol blending.
- Promotion of public transport and improvements in roads and building of more bridges to ease congestion on roads.
- Operationalisation of Eastern Peripheral Expressway and Western Peripheral Expressway to divert non-destined traffic from Delhi.
- Streamlining the issuance of Pollution Under Control Certificate.
- Environment Protection Charges (EPC) have been imposed on diesel vehicles with engine capacity of 2000cc and above in Delhi NCR.

**Industry**

- Badarpur thermal power plant has been closed from 15th October, 2018.
- Notification of stricter emission norms for power plants.
- All brick kilns have been shifted to zig-zag technology in Delhi and NCR.
- Installation of on-line continuous (24x7) monitoring devices all red category industries in Delhi and NCR.
- Revision of emission standards for industrial sectors from time to time.
- Ban on pet coke and furnace oil - monitoring of use of pet coke in Lime Kilns/Cement Kilns and Calcium Carbide Industry in Delhi and NCR States.

**Biomass and Solid Waste**

- A new Central Sector Scheme on 'Promotion of Agricultural Mechanization for *in-situ* management of Crop Residue in the States of Punjab, Haryana, Uttar Pradesh and NCT of Delhi for the period from 2018-19 and 2019-20 has been launched.
- Banning of burning of biomass/garbage.
- 3 Waste-to-Energy (W-t-E) plants are currently operational in Delhi with atotal capacity of 5100 Tonnes Per Day (TPD).
- Notifications of 6 waste management rules covering solid waste, plastic waste, e-waste, bio-medical waste, C&D waste and hazardous wastes issued in 2016.

**Dust**

- Notifications regarding dust mitigation measures for construction and demolition activities.
- Number of mechanised road sweeping machines has been increased significantly and presently 60 machines are deployed for cleaning of roads in Delhi.

**Public Outreach**

- Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change and Uttar Pradesh, Punjab, Haryana, Rajasthan and Delhi Governments launched Clean Air for Delhi Campaign from 10th - 23<sup>rd</sup> Feb. 2018 and to check air polluting activities pre and post Diwali, a special campaign called "Clean Air Campaign" during November 01, 2018 to November 10, 2018.
- Ministry is promoting peoples participation and awareness building among citizens for environmental conservation through Green Goods Deeds that focus on promotion of cycling, saving water and electricity, growing trees, proper maintenance of vehicles, following of lane discipline and reducing congestion on roads by car pooling etc.
- Development of mechanism for redressal of public complaints regarding air pollution issues in Delhi and NCR (through 'Sameer App', 'Emails' ([aircomplaints.cpcb@gov.in](mailto:aircomplaints.cpcb@gov.in)) and 'Social Media Networks' (Facebook and Twitter) etc.

(c) Forest Survey of India (FSI), Dehradun, an organisation under the Ministry carries out assessment of forest cover of the country biennially and findings are published in India State of Forest Report (ISFR). As per the latest report *i.e.* ISFR- 2017, the total forest in the Delhi is as follows:-

(Area in Square kilometre)

State	Geographical area	Forest Cover as per ISFR 2015	Forest Cover as per ISFR 2017	Increase in Forest Cover
Delhi	1,483	188.77	192.41	3.64

Thus there is a significant increase in forest cover of Delhi over the two year period. Further, to increase the forest/green cover in the country, afforestation

programmes are being taken up under various Centrally Sponsored Schemes such as National Afforestation Programme and Green India Mission being implemented by Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change. Afforestation activities are also taken up under various programmes/funding sources such as Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme, Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana, Compensatory Afforestation Fund and under concerned State/UT schemes/plans.

(d) Various steps have been taken by the Central Government to check the pollution of water bodies, *inter alia*, include formulation and notification of standards for effluents from industries, operations or processes; enforcing of these standards by State Pollution Control Boards (SPCBs)/Pollution Control Committees (PCCs) through consent mechanism and regular monitoring; setting up of monitoring network for assessment of water quality; installation of Online Continuous Effluent Monitoring systems (OCEMS) to check the discharge of effluent directly into water bodies; promotion of cleaner production processes; installation of Common Effluent Treatment Plants for cluster of Small Scale Industrial units; issuance of directions for implementation of Zero Liquid Discharge in certain categories of highly polluting industries; 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, etc.

#### **Pollution due to e-waste**

†2417. SHRI MOTILAL VORA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of total e-waste generated in the country during the last three years;

(b) the details of the e-waste recycled from the total e-waste;

(c) whether e-waste is the reason behind rising pollution in the country, especially in metropolitan cities and people are also becoming vulnerable to lung cancer as a result of this;

(d) whether it is a fact that e-waste is being imported in the country from developed countries;

(e) if so, steps taken by Government to stop this; and

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.