Compliance of waste management rules and regulations

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

(a) whether Government is aware of the observations made by Chairman, National Green Tribunal on the eve of World Environment Day that no State in the country is complying with the rules and regulations of waste management;

(b) whether Government is also aware of his observations that six lakhs people die every year in India due to pollution in the air causing diseases ranging from asthma to cancer;

(c) if so, the reaction of Government thereto; and

(d) the details of action being proposed by Government to improve the deadly situation?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE (SHRI PRAKASH JAVADEKAR): (a) to (d) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) and (b) Yes sir.

(c) The World Health Organization (WHO), from time to time, has been publishing estimates of mortality/morbidity attributable to environmental pollution. These estimates are, however, based on models, simulations and extrapolations. Though air pollution is one of the triggering factors for respiratory ailments and associated diseases, there are no conclusive data available in the country to establish direct correlation of death/disease exclusively due to air pollution.

(d) The Central Government has taken a number of initiatives for prevention, control and abatement of air pollution. These includes:

Plans and Directions

- National Clean Air Programme (NCAP) under the Central Sector “Control of Pollution” Scheme as a time bound national level strategy to tackle air pollution problem across the country in comprehensive manner has been launched.
- 102 non-attainment cities for formulation and implementation of city specific action plan under NCAP have been identified.
Comprehensive Action Plan (CAP) identifying timelines and implementing agency for actions identified for prevention, control and mitigation of air pollution in Delhi and NCR has been notified.

Graded Response Action Plan for different levels of air pollution in Delhi and NCR has been notified.

A comprehensive set of directions have been issued under Section 18 (1) (b) of Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1986 for implementation of 42/31 measures to mitigate air pollution in major cities including Delhi and NCR cities comprising of control and mitigation measures related to vehicular emissions, re-suspension of road dust and other fugitive emissions, bio-mass/municipal solid waste burning, industrial pollution, construction and demolition activities, and other general steps.

**Monitoring**

- Setting up of monitoring network for assessment of ambient air quality.
- 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.

**Industry**

- Badarpur thermal power plant has been closed from 15th October, 2018.
• 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.

**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.

• 3 Waste-to-Energy (W-t-E) plants are currently operational in Delhi with a total capacity of 5100 Tonnes Per Day (TPD).


**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 Delhi Government launched Clean Air for Delhi Campaign from 10th – 23rd February, 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’
SHRI BHUBANESWAR KALITA: Sir, it is a well-known fact that pollution is a killer, generating diseases on our children year after year. My question is very straight. Dangerous and hazardous plastic waste is being imported from abroad. What concrete steps has the Government taken to implement strictly the Plastic Waste Maintenance Rules, 2016?

**SHRI PRASAD JAVADEKAR:** उपस्थिति जी, यह बहुत सही प्रश्न है, जो भूमिका खींचता जी ने पूछा है। यह प्लास्टिक वेस्ट का प्रश्न है और प्लास्टिक वेस्ट खास कर इम्पोर्ट होता है। अपने देश में पहले ही रोज़ लगभग 20 हज़ार टन प्लास्टिक कच्चा तैयार होता है। इसमें एक 13-14 हज़ार टन कलर्ट होता है, 6-7 हज़ार टन तक प्लास्टिक वेस्ट नहीं पड़ता रहता है और अलग-अलग वस्तुओं पर पड़ता है, इसलिए जो प्लास्टिक वेस्ट मैनेजमेंट रुल्स का नाम दिया गया है, उसमें हम agencies की जिम्मेदारी की नहीं है। सर, उसमें दो प्राथमिक हैं। उसमें एक है मॉली लेवल प्लास्टिक और एक भी... जो अपने प्लास्टिक वेस्ट इम्पोर्ट की बात कही है, उसके लिए बालामा वाहनांक हूँ कि हमने अगस्त, 2019 से प्लास्टिक वेस्ट इम्पोर्ट को पूरीता तरह से बैठ किया है। आपको सुनिश्चित करते हुए यह बहुत आवश्यक मिल रहा है कि यह अगले महीने से बंद किया गया है।

SHRI BHUBANESWAR KALITA: Sir, that is okay. We know that it has been banned. Has it been implemented strictly? I now put my second supplementary question. Sir, the illegal burning of solid wastes and biomass is of serious concern and so is the depletion of our forest cover in the country. A report of the U.N. ...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Please put question. Don't quote from the report.

SHRI BHUBANESWAR KALITA: I need to make the background. A report of the United Nations says that per head trees are the lowest in India. This is what the U.N. Report says. You will clarify on this. To be precise, per head, there are only 28 trees in the country, unlike other countries. So, the forest cover is depleting, which is a serious concern. The environment is getting hotter by one per cent every five years. My question is of public outrage. Except observing World Environment Day, what concrete steps are being taken to involve the citizens to create a mass tree plantation movement in the country?

**SHRI PRASAD JAVADEKAR:** सर, यह भी एक बहुत महत्वपूर्ण सवाल है। मैं एक ही स्थितिकरण करता रहता हूँ कि We have taken a decision to ban plastic waste import from August 19th. So, implementation will start in August. This is one point. The second is, as far as public movement is concerned, I believe that ‘Plant and grow tree’ has to be a public movement and therefore, we are taking 2-3 steps. One is, school nursery.
Ultimately you need to teach school students to nurture trees and therefore, they will plant seedlings. They will ensure that it grows to this level by the year end and at the year end they will take from the school nursery to their home. If they have place in their home, they will grow that plant as their own plant. If they don't have space they will go somewhere nearby, where there is a space, and they will ask the person, 'Sir, I have planted this tree, will you plant in your compound?' I am very sure that everybody will participate. We have done successful pilot projects. Now we are doing this on a mass scale. This is one point. The second is urban forestry. In urban forestry, the concept is, that in many cities where we have surveyed, there are large tracks of forest lands which are not utilised and therefore encroached upon at many places. So, we have given a programme that we will give the first amount of instalment for fencing the area remaining and that area will be made forest, converted into a forest area with public participation. In my own city, Pune, we have started the first programme and now in many cities it has picked up. So, we want public to be part of it. Like for example, one country has made a law that you have to grow, at least, this many trees till you graduate. We want to inculcate the same spirit in our people.

SHRI TIRUCHI SIVA: Sir, the reply of the Minister is very clear. He said 'yes' for (a) and (b) part of the question. To (b) part of the question, while the (b) part of the reply states: “The Chairman of Green Tribunal has asserted that six lakh people die of cancer in India due to pollution of air causing diseases ranging from asthma to cancer,” the reply further says, “Sir, that there is no conclusive data available in the country to establish direct co-relation of death or disease.” So, these two are very contradictory. So, I would like to know from the Minister whether the Ministry will verify with the NGT Chairman and enlighten the House with the exact details.

SHRI PRAKASH JAVADEKAR: The first Chairman of NGT has actually stated and emphasised the non-compliance of rules and regulations of Waste Management; we had created six new waste management rules. They are Solid Waste Management Rules, Plastic Waste Management Rules, Bio-Medical Waste Management Rules, e-waste (Management) Rules, Construction and Demolition Waste Management Rules and Hazardous Wastes and other (Management and Transboundary Movement) Rules. So, all these six rules need to be implemented in perfect spirit in which they were made. We have taken into confidence all stakeholders. Now we are making more rigorous follow up because three years have lapsed and now is the time when we must see the effect of that, and we will ensure that. As far as your question is concerned, we will also seek the report from him, from where he has quoted this.
But there is one report from Global Burden of Disease but, as we have explained in Para 2, it is very clear that it is not the first data. Sometimes such reports are based on secondary data and there are other aspects also which need to be calibrated while coming to a final conclusion.

SHRI TIRUCHI SIVA: The Chairman of NGT is a very responsible person.

SHRI PRAKASH JAVADEKAR: That is what I am saying.

SHRI MANAS RANJAN BHUNIA: Mr. Deputy Chairman, Sir. Will the hon. Minister be pleased to state whether the Government is aware that 40 per cent of deaths in 2017 in UP, West Bengal and Maharashtra were related to air pollution? Is the Government aware that there are more disability-adjusted life years lost due to air polluted respiratory diseases rather than tobacco consumption? If so, what steps does the Government take to counter deaths due to everyday rising levels of air pollution?

SHRI PRAKASH JAVADEKAR: Sir, it is a very important question.

The issue is very real and everybody needs to contribute to solve this problem. The issue is air pollution. Air pollution is a global phenomenon. It is present in all kinds of cities, including cities of Europe, USA and also our country. There are some cities which have more acute problem and there are some cities where you have a better picture.

One of the problems of pollution is vehicles. The Modi Government has taken a decision that we will implement BS-VI fuel in 2020 all over the country. We are already getting it in Delhi. Shri Nitin Gadkari ji is here. He has constructed so many new bridges and peripheral express roads which were languishing for the last ten years they have been completed to a great extent. The remaining small portion will also be completed this year.

SHRIMATI JAYA BACHCHAN: Sir, actually, there is a big contradiction. Here we have the Minister talking about making roads and connecting the country. Cutting trees to make roads is, obviously, a normal thing that happens. I live in Mumbai. It is happening to us all the time. Every second day we are given a notice saying that we have to break your boundary wall. We planted a lot of trees. They are saying that they have to cut our trees to widen road. It was not there in the master-plan.
But, because of the new situation, it is happening. So, there are States which are really violating the norms. How are you going to tackle and punish those States? Would you please name the States and tell us how are you going to speak to those States and take them to task?

**श्री प्रकाश जावडेकर:** हमेशा यह प्रश्न आता है कि विकास करना है, क्योंकि लोगों की ही यह मांग रहती है कि roads विस्तार करो, ऐसा करो, वैसा करो। अपने जो सवाल पूछा है, वह इम्पोर्टेंट है। अगर कोई वैंडलिंग कर रहा है, तो वह विलुप्त ...**(यक्षण)**... एक मिनट, मुझे उत्तर तो देने दीजिए। अगर कोई वैंडलिंग कर रहा है, तो वह सहन नहीं किया जाएगा। जया जी, अगर इस संख्या में आपको कोई जानकारी है, तो जल्दी कहिए। ...(यक्षण)... **श्री उपसमाप्ति:** माननीय मंत्री जी, आप इस देखकर बोलिएं जया जी, पति...**(यक्षण)**...

We will move to next question.

**श्री प्रकाश जावडेकर:** आप एक पत्र लिखकर भेज देंगी, तो मैं उस पर जल्दी कार्यवाही करूंगा। मैं एक दूरदरी बात भी बताऊँगा वाहानी है कि दिल्ली की मेट्रो इसका एक बड़ा उद्देश्य है। 2002 में जब पहला स्टेशन चला था, तब तक वह था। उस वक़्त कुछ पेड़ कटते थे, तो लोगों ने बढ़ा विरोध किया था, लेकिन आज 271 स्टेशन में ...**environmental friendly** है, यह हो रहा है।

**श्री उपसमाप्ति:** माननीय मंत्री जी, कृपया आप अपने उत्तर को संक्षिप्त करें।

**श्रीमती जया बच्चन:** उपसमाप्ति जी, माननीय मंत्री जी ने आपके सामने वादा किया है।

**श्री प्रकाश जावडेकर:** आप मुझे पत्र लिखकर दें रहे, मैं कार्यवाही करूंगा।

**कोयला खानों में काम करने वाले श्रमिकों को जीवन बीमा और स्वास्थ्य कार्ड उपलब्ध कराया जाना**

*21. श्री राकेश सिंहान: क्या कोयला मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:*

(क) क्या कोयला खानों में अर्थव्यवस्था जोखिममूर्त दशाओं में कार्य करने वाले श्रमिकों की सुरक्षा हेतु अन्तर्गत जीवन बीमा और स्वास्थ्य कार्ड उपलब्ध कराया जाए?

(ख) क्या सभी श्रमिक जीवन बीमा, स्वास्थ्य कार्ड और भ्रमण से जुड़े लागूची अन्य सुविधाओं की सहभागिता प्राप्त कर सकेंगे?

(ग) क्या इन श्रमिकों को स्वास्थ्य कार्ड प्रदान करें?

(घ) क्या उन्हें कोई स्वास्थ्य कार्ड उपलब्ध कराया गया है?

**कोयला मंत्री (श्री प्रहलाद जोशी):** (क) से (घ) तक आपकी सभी प्रशंसा पर रख दिया गया है।

**विवरण:**

(क) जी, हां। देश में कोयला खानों की सुरक्षा मानक में सुधार करने हेतु श्रम एवं रोजगार मंत्रालय के तहत खान सुरक्षा महामन्दिर (डीजीएमएस) ने विभागीय बनावट उठाने हेतु कृत्रिम श्रमिकों को सहयोग दिया।