

For addressing the challenge of climate change, India adheres to the paramountcy of the UNFCCC processes. It has proactively contributed to multilateral efforts to combat climate change and continues to do so while undertaking its own independent, enhanced initiatives in climate mitigation and adaptation besides meeting all its commitments under the UNFCCC, its KP and PA. Independent studies rate India's efforts highly and compliant with the requirements under PA.

Public health emergency due to bad air quality

843. SHRI SANJAY RAUT: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has declared a public health emergency as the air quality has further deteriorated to beyond severe levels in Delhi, Haryana, Uttar Pradesh and Rajasthan in October and November, 2019;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the details of steps taken or proposed to be taken by Government with consultation with Northern States to control hazardous air pollution every year, particularly during October to December months?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE (SHRI BABUL SUPRIYO): (a) and (b) High levels of pollution were observed in Delhi and Northern States towards the last week of October and early November, 2019 due to adverse meteorological conditions like lower mixing height, low wind speed, high relative humidity, local sources of emissions like industrial emissions, vehicular emissions, road and soil dust, construction and demolition activities coupled with contribution from stubble burning in Northern States of India.

(c) The Government is taking all efforts for the mitigation of air pollution in Delhi and NCR. Central Government has taken a number of regulatory measures for prevention, control and abatement of air pollution in the country. A Comprehensive Air Plan (CAP) for Delhi NCR has been developed identifying the timelines and implementing agencies for actions delineated. The Central Government has notified a Graded Response Action Plan (GRAP) for Delhi and NCR for different levels of pollution. The nature, scope and rigor of measures to be taken are linked to levels of pollution *viz.* severe+ or emergency, severe, very poor, moderate to poor and moderate, after due consideration by authorities concerned. Also, Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change

has launched National Clean Air Programme (NCAP) in January, 2019 to tackle the problem of air pollution in a comprehensive manner with targets to achieve 20 to 30 % reduction in PM_{10} and $PM_{2.5}$ concentrations by 2024 keeping 2017 as base year. The plan includes 102 non-attainment cities, across 23 States and Union Territories, on the basis of their ambient air quality data between 2011 and 2015.

Several initiatives taken by the Government are given in the Statement. [Refer to the Statement appended to answer to USQ No. 835 [Part (c) to (e)]]

High influx of traffic into hill stations

844. SHRI C.M. RAMESH: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE be pleased to state:

(a) whether thousands of people every year visit hill stations specially Himachal Pradesh and Uttaranchal due to which lot of vehicles enter these States thereby clogging all approach roads to these hill stations and spoiling the ecosystem which cannot handle such influx details thereof; and

(b) whether Government will put restrictions on vehicles entering these States so that environment damage is minimized, details thereof and if not, reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE (SHRI BABUL SUPRIYO): (a) Yes, Sir. The vehicular traffic increases in the Hill States especially during tourist sessions, at times causing clogging on main tourist stations roads such as Shimla, Kullu, Manali, Dalhousie and Nainital areas.

(b) There is some restriction on heavy traffic during the months of May, June and October in Nainital, Uttarakhand. The Government of Himachal Pradesh, on the Order of the National Green Tribunal (dated 06.07.2015) regulated plying of vehicles to Rohtang Pass. The movement of vehicles is restricted upto 1200 vehicles (400 diesel and 800 petrol) per day. However, there is no proposal to put restrictions on the vehicles entering in Himachal Pradesh as Himachal is a tourist destination State.

Displacement of families due to Project Tiger

†845. SHRI RAM VICHAR NETAM: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE be pleased to state:

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.