

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION No. 1309
TO BE ANSWERED ON 09.12.2021

Loss of biodiversity due to environmental pollution

1309. DR. KIRODI LAL MEENA:

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether environmental pollution causes major problems such as degradation of land, the wearing away of national resources and loss of biodiversity;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the increase in construction activities and vehicular movement has also contributed it increasing pollution in the cities; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof and the initiatives taken by Government to control air pollution?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE
(SHRI ASHWINI KUMAR CHOUBEY)

- (a) & (b) Degradation of land, natural resources and loss of biodiversity may be caused by both natural calamities as well as anthropogenic factors include environmental pollution. As per the Desertification and Land Degradation Atlas of India, prepared by the Space Applications Centre for the period 2011-2013, 29.32 % of the total Geographical Area of the country i.e. 96.4 million hectares is undergoing the process of degradation.
- (c) & (d) The source apportionment studies conducted by TERI-ARAI in the year 2018 reveals that during summer months, dust (soil, road and construction activities) contribute 42% and 38% to PM₁₀ and PM_{2.5}, respectively, and during winter months, dust (soil, road and construction activities) contribute 25% and 17% to PM₁₀ and PM_{2.5}, respectively. Similarly, during summer months, Transport contributes 15% and 17% to PM₁₀ and PM_{2.5}, respectively, and during winter months, Transport contributes 24% and 28% to PM₁₀ and PM_{2.5}, respectively. The efforts taken by the Government of India in reducing environmental pollution are at **Annexure**. The citizens should also extend support for the following activities such as:
 - a) Renew your Pollution under Control Certificate timely.
 - b) Avoid idling of engines.
 - c) Plan errands to reduce travel time and trips.
 - d) Adopt clean modes of transport.
 - e) Prefer cycles/ e-bikes for short trips.
 - f) Adopt public transportation wherever feasible.
 - g) Avoid Congested routes. Segregate household waste
 - h) Never burn waste
 - i) Take recyclable waste to collection centers & earn from waste too

- j) Compost leaves and gardenwaste
- k) Avoid vigorous sweeping of leaves in gardens/ parks – use widerakes
- l) Dispose e-wasteresponsibly.
- m) Adopt green good deeds and encourage otherstoo.
- n) Use public grievance redressal applications to inform air polluting activities toauthorities

Further, India is protecting 27% of its geographical area through various conservation measures taken under The Forest (Conservation) Act, The Wild Life (Protection) Act, Biological Diversity Act and Environment (Protection) Act.

Annexure

ANNEXURE REFERRED IN REPLY TO THE RAJYA SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1309 DUE FOR ANSWER ON 9.12.2021 REGARDING "LOSS OF BIODIVERSITY DUE TO ENVIRONMENTAL POLLUTION" RAISED BY DR. KIRODI LAL MEENA, HON'BLE MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT

CENTRAL GOVERNMENT INITIATIVES TO COMBAT AIR POLLUTION

(i) Vehicular Emission

- i. Leapfrogging from BS-IV to BS-VI norms for fuel and vehicles since April, 2020.
- ii. Network of metro rails for public transport are enhanced and more cities are covered.
- iii. Development of Expressway and Highways are also reducing the fuel consumption and pollution.
- iv. Eastern Peripheral Expressway & Western Peripheral Expressway have been operationalised to divert non destined traffic from Delhi.
- v. All 10-year-old diesel vehicles are deregistered in Delhi NCR.
- vi. Environment protection charges (EPC) have been imposed on diesel vehicles with engine capacity of 2000cc and above in Delhi NCR.
- vii. Introduction of cleaner/alternate fuels like CNG, LPG, ethanol blending in petrol.
- viii. Faster Adoption and Manufacturing of Electric Vehicles (FAME) -2 scheme has been rolled out.
- ix. Permit requirement for electric vehicles has been exempted.
- x. Promotion of public transport and improvements in roads and building of more bridges to ease congestion on roads.

(ii) Industrial Emission

- i. Stringent emission norms for Coal based Thermal Power Plants (TPPs).
- ii. Ban on use of pet coke and furnace oil in NCR with restricted use of pet coke in cement plants, lime kilns and calcium carbide manufacturing units.
- iii. Shifting of industrial units to PNG.
- iv. Installation of online continuous emission monitoring devices in highly polluting industries.

- v. Shifting of brick kilns to zig-zag technology for reduction of pollution

(iii) Air Pollution due to dust and burning of waste

- i. Notifications of 6 waste management rules covering solid waste, plastic waste, e-waste, bio-medical waste, C&D waste and hazardous waste.
- ii. Setting up infrastructure such as waste processing plants.
- iii. Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) for plastic and e-waste management.
- iv. Ban on burning of biomass/garbage.

(iv) Crop Residue Management

- i. Under 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', agricultural machines and equipment for in-situ crop residue management are promoted with 50% subsidy to the individual farmers and 80% subsidy for establishment of Custom Hiring Centres.
- ii. Sustainable Alternative Towards Affordable Transportation (SATAT) has been launched as an initiative to set up Compressed Bio-Gas (CBG) production plants and make CBG available in the market for use in automotive fuels.

(v) Monitoring of Ambient Air Quality

- i. Expansion of air quality monitoring network of manual as well as continuous monitoring stations under programmes such as National Air Monitoring Programme (NAMP).
- ii. Initiation of pilot projects to assess alternate ambient monitoring technologies such as low-cost sensors and satellite-based monitoring.
- iii. Implementation of Air Quality Early Warning System for Delhi, Kanpur and Lucknow. The system provides alerts for taking timely actions.
- iv. Public Complaints regarding air pollution issues in Delhi NCR are taken through 'Sameer App', 'Emails' (Aircomplaints.cpcb@gov.in) and 'Social Media Networks' (Facebook and Twitter).

(vi) Monitoring implementation of NCAP

- i. Government has launched National Clean Air Programme (NCAP) as a national level strategy to reduce air pollution levels across the country. City Specific Clean Air Action Plans have been prepared and rolled out for implementation in 132 non-attainment and million plus cities.

- ii. ₹ 375.44 crores have been sanctioned to non-attainment cities under NCAP for initiating actions such as expansion of monitoring network, construction and demolition waste management facilities, non-motorised transport infrastructure, green buffers, mechanical street sweepers, composting units etc.
- iii. As per the Fifteenth Finance commission recommendations ₹4400 crores have been released in the Budget of FY 2020-21 to tackle the burgeoning problem of air pollution for 42 urban centres with a million-plus population. Further, an amount of ₹12,139 crores has been allocated for improvement of air quality for the award period FY 2021-26.
- iv. City Specific Action Plans for improvement of air quality has been prepared and approved for implementation.
- v. Implementation of the city specific action plans are regularly monitored by Committees at Central and State level namely Steering Committee, Monitoring Committee and Implementation Committee.
- vi. PRANA a portal for monitoring implementation of NCAP has been launched.
