

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 520
TO BE ANSWERED ON 21.07.2022

Lancet Planetary Health Report

520: SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR MODI:

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

- (a) whether Government agrees with the report on pollution and health published in the Lancet Planetary Health;
- (b) whether it is a fact that air pollution was responsible for 16.7 lakh deaths in the country in the year 2019 or 17.8 per cent of all deaths in the country that year;
- (c) whether it is also a fact that World Health Organization (WHO) has lowered the guideline value for PM_{2.5} from 10 micro gram per cubic metre to 5; and
- (d) steps taken by Government to prevent deaths from air pollution?

ANSWER

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

- (a) to (d): Various Organizations/Institutes, from time to time, have been publishing estimates of mortality/morbidity attributable to environmental pollution 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 exclusively due to air pollution. Health effects of air pollution are synergistic manifestation of factors which include food habits, occupational habits, socio-economic status, medical history, immunity, heredity, etc., of the individuals.

World Health Organisation (WHO) in the year 2021, in its Air Quality Guidelines has revised the recommended level for PM_{2.5} from 10 µg/m³ to 5µg/m³.

The Government has taken several steps to address air pollution, which inter alia include notification of National Ambient Air Quality Standards; revision of emission standards for industrial sectors from time to time; setting up of monitoring network for assessment of ambient air quality in the cities; introduction of cleaner/alternate fuels like gaseous fuel (CNG, LPG etc.), ethanol blending, launching of National Air Quality index; leapfrogging from BS-IV to BS-VI standards for fuel and vehicle; expansion of network

of Metro rails for public transport, notification of Construction and Demolition Waste Management Rules; banning of burning of biomass; streamlining the issuance of Pollution Under Control Certificate, installation of on-line continuous (24x7) monitoring devices by major industries, etc. Stringent emission norms for industries including coal based Thermal Power Plants (TPPs), zig-zag technology for brick kilns, Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) for plastic and e-waste management and real time monitoring of major industrial sectors, etc.
