

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

**RAJYA SABHA**  
**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 3905**  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 06.04.2023

**Deaths caused by air pollution**

3905. SHRI B. PARTHASARADHI REDDY:

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

- (a)
- (a) whether it is a fact that 18 per cent of total deaths in 2019 can be attributed to increasing air pollution;
  - (b) if so, the measures being taken to reduce air pollution in the country;
  - (c) the number of deaths recorded due to air pollution in 2022; and
  - (d) the details of the measures being taken by Government to aid lower-income individuals in dealing with the health-related issues arising from air pollution?

**ANSWER**

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

**(a):**

There are several studies conducted by different organizations, using different methodologies, on the impact of air pollution. However, there is no conclusive data available to establish a direct correlation of death/disease/life expectancy exclusively with air pollution. Air pollution is one of the many factors affecting respiratory ailments and associated diseases. Health is impacted by a number of factors which include food habits, occupational habits, socio-economic status, medical history, immunity, heredity, etc., of the individuals apart from the environment.

**(b) to (d):**

The Government has taken several steps to address air pollution. These, *inter alia*, include:

- Government has launched National Clean Air Programme (NCAP) in 2019 as a national level strategy to reduce air pollution levels across the country with an aim to improve air quality in 131 cities (non-attainment cities and Million Plus Cities in 24 States) by engaging all stakeholders. The programme envisages to achieve reductions upto 40% or achievement of National Ambient Air Quality Standards for Particulate Matter<sub>10</sub> (PM<sub>10</sub>) concentrations by 2025-26 over baseline 2017-18. NCAP focuses on preparation and implementation of National, State and City level action plans of the targeted 131 cities;
- Notification of 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;
- Introduction of cleaner/alternate fuels like gases fuel (CNG, LPG etc.);
- Ethanol blending;
- Launching of National Air Quality Index;
- Leapfrogging from BS-IV to BS-VI fuel standards;
- Notification of Construction and Demolition Waste Management Rules;
- Banning of burning of biomass; Streamlining the issuance of Pollution Under Control Certificate;
- Issuance of directions under Section 18(1)(b) of Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1981 and under Section 5 of Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 for controlling air pollution;
- Installation of on-line continuous (24X7) monitoring devices by major industries;
- Notification of Graded Response Action Plan for Delhi and NCR;
- Constitution of Commission on Air Quality Management in NCR and Adjoining Areas (CAQM).
- Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana under the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas regarding use of cleaner household cooking fuels was launched targeting the lower-income households using biomass fuels for cooking etc.

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