

[17 May, 2002]

RAJYA SABHA

(c) whether there is any proposal to revamp the project for achieving desirable goal of universal elementary education;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the total amount sanctioned and spent under the scheme?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI): (a) Yes Sir, for a period of 5 years from July, 1999 to June, 2004.

(b) Information is being collected.

(c) No Sir.

(d) Question does not arise.

(e) A sum of Rs. 140.70 crores has been sanctioned against which Rs. 125.56 crores has been spent in Phase III of project, upto 31.3.2002.

Air pollution in Bangalore

*78 SHRI K RAHMAN KHAN

DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any study has been conducted to find out average pollution levels in major cities of the countries, if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether Government are aware that air pollution is alarming in Bangalore; and

(c) if so, what are the guidelines and measures taken by Government to control air pollution, caused due to increasing number of vehicles?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) A network of Ambient Air Quality Monitoring Stations has been established in the various cities of the country to monitor various parameters of air pollution, including Sulphur dioxide (SO₂), Oxides of Nitrogen (NO_x), Suspended Particulate Matter (SPM) and Respirable Suspended Particulate Matter (RSPM). There are 295 Air Quality Monitoring Stations in the country and the air quality monitoring is carried out by the

State Pollution control Boards/Committees in coordination with Central Pollution control board on regular basis. The monitoring results indicate that Sulphur dioxide(SO₂) and Nitrogen dioxide (NO₂) are within the stipulated standards but the Suspended Particulate Matter (SPM) and Respirable Suspended Particulate Matter (RSPM) exceed the standards at some locations during certain period.

(b) On the basis of the observations made at different locations in Bangalore city, the ambient air quality in terms of SO₂ and NO_x have been found to be within the standards but the levels of SPM and RSPM exceeded the standards at some locations during certain period.

(c) The steps taken by the Government to control air pollution due to increasing number of vehicles include the following:

- (i) India 2000 emission norms akin to Euro-I norms for registration of four wheeled private (non-commercial) vehicles were made effective from 1.6.1999 in the National Capital Region (NCR) and from 1.1.2000 in Mumbai. These norms were made effective for all categories of vehicles manufactured on and after 1.4.2000 in the entire country.
- (ii) Bharat State-II emission norms akin to Euro-II norms for registration of four wheeled private (non-commercial) vehicles were made effective from 1.4.2000 in the NCR, from 1.1.2001 in Mumbai (including Greater Mumbai) and in Kolkata & Chennai from 1.7.2001. These norms have been made effective for commercial vehicles from 24.10.2001 in the National Capital Territory (NCT) of Delhi and from 31.10.2001 in Mumbai (including Greater Mumbai), Kolkata and Chennai.
- (iii) Unleaded petrol has been introduced in Delhi, Mumbai, Kolkata and Chennai from 1.4.1995 and in the entire country from 1.2.2000.
- (iv) Diesel with 0.25% sulphur content (maximum) was introduced in metros from 1.4.1998 and in the entire country, from 1.1.2000. Diesel with 0.05% sulphur content (maximum) has been introduced from 1.1.2001 in Mumbai and from 1.7.2001 in Kolkata and Chennai.

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- (v) Petrol with 1 % Benzene maximum is made available in the NCT of Delhi from 1.11.2000 and in Mumbai from 1.1.2001. Petrol with 3% Benzene maximum is made available in Kolkata and Chennai from 1.4.2000.
- (vi) Emission norms for Compressed Natural Gas (CNG) driven vehicles have been made effective from 922000. Comprehensive emission norms for CNG driven vehicles including safety and procedural requirements for type approval of CNG and LPG operated vehicles were notified on 19.11.2001.
- (vii) Emission norms for Liquefied Petroleum Gas (LPG) driven vehicles have been notified.

New variety of wheat by IARI

*749. SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD:
DR.T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether, in order to meet the goal of increased agriculture productivity by 2020, Indian Agriculture Research Institute has come with a new variety of wheat;

(b) if so, whether because of this, variety, it is possible to achieve 15-20 per cent higher yield than other types available in the country;

(c) whether any proposal in this regard has been worked out;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) in which States, this new variety of wheat is being supplied?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI AJIT SINGH): (a) Indian Agricultural Research Institute, New Delhi is in the process of developing of a New Plant type for realizing higher yield in wheat. The new genotypes are expected to give a quantum jump in wheat productivity.

(b) The new genotypes have yielded upto 15—20% higher as compared to currently popular varieties such as PBW 343, HD 2329 and UP 2338 in the preliminary yield trials conducted by the institute.