

Regarding reported recent scientific study finding about the country losing its sunshine due to aerosol and particulate emissions leading to polluted air- Laid

SHRI NAVEEN JINDAL (KURUKSHETRA): I would like to draw the attention of the Government and the Hon'ble Minister of Environment, Forest and Climate Change to a recent scientific study published in Scientific Reports (Nature Portfolio) titled "India losing its sunshine to cloud cover, bad air." The study, conducted by scientists from Banaras Hindu University, the Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology, and the India Meteorological Department, finds that India's sunshine hours have declined consistently over the past three decades. Based on data from 20 weather stations (1988-2018), the steepest annual drop around 13.1 hours per year has been recorded across the northern inland region, the Himalayan belt, and the west coast. Researchers attribute this decline to persistent cloud cover and increasing air pollution, particularly aerosols from industrial emissions, vehicular exhaust, and biomass burning. These aerosols and clouds together have reduced solar radiation reaching the surface by nearly 40%, threatening India's agricultural productivity and renewable energy ambitions under the National Solar Mission. I propose that the Government should conduct a detailed assessment of regional sunlight trends, integrate solar irradiance monitoring into environmental data systems, and strengthen measures to curb aerosol and particulate emissions to ensure clean skies and energy security.