

Regarding need to constitute an expert Task Force to study the Air Quality Index and take pollution control measures in Kochi in Kerala- Laid

SHRI HIBI EDEN (ERNAKULAM): I wish to bring the Governments attention to the alarming environmental crisis unfolding in Kochi, Kerala. The city's Air Quality Index has plummeted to an "Unhealthy" status, with Particulate Matter levels far exceeding safe limits. This situation manifests in thick, smog-like conditions and the formation of dangerous photochemical fog, raising serious fears of Kochi rapidly becoming the next Delhi. The crisis is driven by unchecked pollution from multiple sources. Industrial emissions from belts like Eloor, massive dust generated by ongoing construction projects, and rising vehicular exhaust are choking the air. A critical failure is the lack of foresight in urban planning, specifically the removal of vital tree cover, which has severely hampered the natural dispersion of pollutants. We must treat this as a public health catastrophe. I urge the Union Government to immediately constitute an expert task force to study the localized causes, implement stringent pollution control measures across industrial and construction sectors, and fund urgent reforestation drives. We must act decisively now to safeguard the health of Kochi's citizens and prevent irreversible environmental damage.