

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS
LOK SABHA**

STARRED QUESTION NO:15
ANSWERED ON:24.07.2000
AIR POLLUTION
T.T.V. DHINAKARAN

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

- (a) whether the World Health Organisation has sponsored a study to carry out the epidemiological investigation of morbidity of air pollution in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the measures undertaken by the Government to control air pollution;
- (d) whether any survey has been conducted to study the result of such pollution-control programmes; and
- (e) if so, the details in this regard?

Answer

MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU)

(a) & (b) Yes, Sir. The World Health Organisation has sponsored a study to carry out an epidemiological study on respiratory morbidity due to air pollution in Delhi. The study was carried out by Vallabh Bhai Patel Chest Institute, Delhi which indicated higher incidence of respiratory ailments amongst the people living in polluted areas in comparison to less polluted areas. .

(c),(d) & (e) According to the studies conducted by the Central Pollution Control Board, the ambient levels of lead in the atmosphere near traffic intersections of Delhi has been reduced by more than 60% and also considerable reduction in the ambient levels of gaseous pollutants in Delhi has been observed. The steps taken by the Government to reduce air pollution include the following:

- (1) The Government has formulated a comprehensive Policy for Abatement of Pollution that lays stress on both the control and preventive aspects of pollution.
- (2) The ambient air quality of Delhi is monitored regularly through a network of monitoring stations under the National Ambient Air Quality Monitoring Programme.
- (3) Ambient air quality standards and emission standards for industrial units have been notified.
- (4) Emissions from highly polluting industrial units and thermal power plants are regularly monitored and action is taken against the defaulting units.
- (5) Unleaded petrol is now available throughout the country. Sulphur content in petrol/diesel also has been reduced.
- (6) Gross emission standards for on-road vehicles and mass emission standards for all categories of new vehicles have been notified under the Central Motor Vehicles Rules, 1989. More stringent emission norms have also been notified.
- (7) Fiscal incentives are provided for installation of CNG kits.