

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2  
ANSWERED ON:21.07.2003  
POLLUTION IN MAJOR CITIES  
MAHESHWAR SINGH;SHIVAJI MANE;SURESH CHANDEL

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

- (a) whether the Government are aware of the increased level of air, water and sound pollution in Delhi, Mumbai, Kolkata, Chennai as well as Maharashtra;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) when the study on pollution level was conducted and whether there is any proposal to conduct a fresh study thereon;
- (d) if so, the details thereof;
- (e) whether any time bound programme has been formulated to reduce the pollution; and
- (f) if so, the details indicating the steps taken to make the above cities pollution free?

**Answer**

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI DILIP SINGH JU DEV)

(a) to (f) An increase in some parameters of pollution had been observed in major cities of the country including, Delhi, Mumbai, Kolkata, Chennai and Pune. A network of ambient air (295) and water (518) quality monitoring stations covering 98 towns/cities distributed all over the country has been set up to carry out continuous monitoring of air and water quality. Surveys are conducted in major cities from time to time to assess the prevailing levels of noise. In addition, the Government have taken steps to control air, water and sound pollution, which include -

- Notification of effluent and emission standards for various industries under the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986.
- Appropriate siting of industries to minimise impact on eco systems.
- Promotion of cleaner technologies for control of industrial pollution.
- Control of vehicular pollution through promotion of clean fuels, introduction of stringent emission norms and fuel specification.
- Control of noise pollution through various notifications such as for diesel gensets, firecrackers and motor vehicles.
- Identification of critically polluted areas and preparation of action plans for restoration of environmental quality.
- City-specific action plans for improvement of environment.
- Strengthening of monitoring network and institutional capabilities to facilitate and improve enforcement mechanism.