

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:159
ANSWERED ON:21.07.2003
DEATHS DUE TO AIR POLLUTION
CHARAN DAS MAHANT

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

- (a) whether the air pollution in major cities is still high and as many as 40 thousand persons die every year due to air pollution;
- (b) if so, whether the number of persons affected due to air pollution are increasing and Central Pollution Control Board has failed to check the spread of air pollution particularly in Delhi; and
- (c) if so, the details of other steps the Government propose to take in this regard ?

Answer

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

(a), (b) & (c) According to the Central Pollution Control Board, the air pollution levels in major cities are within the prescribed norms except particulates. The air pollution load has come down in Delhi due to various measures taken. There is no conclusive data available to confirm morbidity and mortality attributable to air pollution. The strategies adopted and measures taken for control of environmental pollution include Comprehensive Policy for Abatement of Pollution, supply of improved auto-fuel, tightening of vehicular and industrial emission norms, mandatory environmental clearance for specified industries, promotion of cleaner technologies, strengthening network of air & water quality monitoring stations, assessment of pollution load and source apportionment studies, preparation and implementation of action plans for major cities & critically polluted areas.