

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:837  
ANSWERED ON:24.02.2003  
SPREAD OF DISEASES DUE TO POLLUTION  
SUDHA YADAV;Y.G. MAHAJAN

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

- (a) whether there is a wide spread of many diseases in the country on account of pollution;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government are preparing any action plan to check the pollution; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

**Answer**

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

- (a), (b), (c) & (d) No conclusive data is available to establish cause-effect relationship between pollution and manifestations of various diseases. The measures taken by the Government to control the pollution include the following: -
- (i) A comprehensive Policy for Abatement of Pollution that lays stress on both the control and preventive aspects of pollution has been formulated.
  - (ii) Environmental Epidemiological Studies have been initiated in the different parts of the country to assess the impact of pollution on human health and suggest mitigative measures;
  - (iii) Emission standards for on-road vehicles and mass emission standards for new vehicles have been notified under the Motor Vehicles Act, 1988 and are enforced by Transport Departments of the State Governments.
  - (iv) Unleaded petrol is supplied in the entire country from 1.2.2000 and diesel with 0.25% sulphur maximum content is supplied from 1.1.2000 in the entire country. Ultra low sulphur (0.05%) fuel (petrol and diesel) has also been introduced in major cities.
  - (v) Compressed Natural Gas (CNG) is supplied for automobiles through a number of retail outlets in Delhi and Mumbai to cater to the CNG vehicles.
  - (vi) Benzene concentration in petrol has been reduced.
  - (vii) A network of about 295 Ambient Air Quality Monitoring Stations has been set up throughout the country.
  - (viii) Emission standards for industries have been notified under the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 to check pollution.
  - (ix) Steps have been taken to control of pollution from 17 categories of highly polluting industries
  - (x) Industries are also required to install necessary pollution control equipment before commissioning of their plants.
  - (xi) Industries are required to take consent from the respective State Pollution Control Board under the Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1981.
  - (xii) Rules and Guidelines have been notified for management of municipal, bio-medical and hazardous wastes under the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986.