

[English]

Pollution in Delhi

*68. SHRI MADHAV RAO SCINDIA :
DR. BIZAY SONKAR SHASTRI :

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

(a) whether despite all the steps taken by the Government and other agencies in pursuance of the Supreme Court directions for pollution control in the capital, the pollution level in Delhi has assumed serious proportions;

(b) whether a special pollution control authority has been set up in Delhi;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the steps being taken for pollution control in the National Capital Region?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI SURESH PRABHU) : (a) and (b) Pollution levels show a rising trend in Delhi mainly due to growth in economic activity and increase in the number of vehicles. An action plan for controlling pollution in Delhi has been prepared by the Ministry of Environment and Forests. The Environment Pollution (Prevention and Control) Authority has been set up under the Environment (Protection) Act for protecting and improving the quality of the environment and preventing, controlling and abating environmental pollution in the National Capital Region. The Authority will monitor the implementation of the Action Plan.

(c) and (d) A statement is laid on the table of the House.

Statement

*The Environment Pollution
(Prevention and Control) Authority*

The Central Government has constituted an authority known as the Environment Pollution (Prevention and Control) Authority for the National Capital Region.

The members of the Authority are :

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| (1) | Shri Bhure Lal Secretary Central Vigilance Commission New Delhi | Chairman |
| (2) | Smt. Kiran Dhingra Secretary Government of the National Capital Territory of Delhi Delhi | Member |

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| (3) | Shri Anil Aggrawal Director Centre for Science and Environment New Delhi | Member |
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| (4) | Shri Jagdish Khattar Representative of the Automobile Manufacturers Association of India Executive Director Maruti Udyog Limited New Delhi | Member |
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| (5) | Shri D.K. Biswas Chairman Central Pollution Control Board New Delhi | Convener |
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The Authority shall exercise the following powers and functions:

1. Issue directions for the purpose of protecting the environment, in respect of complaints pertaining to :

- (i) standards for the quality of the environment in its various aspects,
- (ii) standards for emission or discharge of environmental pollutants from various sources,
- (iii) restriction of areas in which any industries, operations or processes or class of industries or processes shall not be carried out or shall be carried out subject to certain safeguards,
- (iv) procedures and safeguards for the prevention of accidents which may cause environmental pollution and remedial measures for such accidents,
- (v) procedures and safeguards for the handling of hazardous substances.

2. For controlling vehicular pollution, take all necessary steps to ensure compliance of specified emission standards by vehicles including proper calibration of the equipment for testing vehicular pollution, ensuring compliance of fuel quality standards, monitoring and coordinating action for traffic planning and management.

3. Ensure maintenance of specified ambient noise standards, and have the power to issue directions under the Environment (Protection) Act, including banning or restricting any industry, process or operation emitting noise.

4. Monitor the progress of the action plan drawn up by the Ministry of Environment and Forests on pollution in Delhi as contained in the "White Paper on Pollution in Delhi with an Action Plan".

The Steps being taken for pollution control in the National Capital Region are :

- (i) The Environment Pollution (Prevention and Control) Authority has been set up for the

National Capital Region for protecting and improving the quality of the environment and preventing, controlling and abating environmental pollution.

- (ii) An Action Plan for the control of Pollution in the National Capital Region has been prepared.
- (iii) Monitoring of air quality by the Central Pollution Control Board through 10 ambient air quality monitoring stations under the National Ambient Air Quality Monitoring Program. The data generated forms the basis for the analysis of the quality of air in the different regions against the prescribed limits.
- (iv) Effluent and emission standards for major sectors of air and water polluting industries have been notified. Industries have been directed to comply with the prescribed standards.
- (v) Emission norms have been progressively tightened for emissions from vehicles at the manufacturing stage. These came into effect on 9.1.1990 with a tighter standard introduced on 1.4.1996. A much stricter emission norm will be introduced from 1.4.2000 for all categories of petrol and diesel vehicles.
- (vi) The Government has drawn up a major program for improvement of the quality of automotive fuels. Unleaded petrol was introduced in Delhi from 1.4.1995 for the use of new 4 wheeler petrol vehicles fitted with catalytic converters introduced from this date. Low sulphur diesel of 0.25% has been introduced in Delhi from 15th August 1997. Pre-mixed fuel oil mixture is being supplied in the retail fuel outlets to prevent sale of loose low quality oils.
- (vii) Introduction of cleaner fuels such as CNG, propane and LPG in in-use vehicles in order to reduce emissions.
- (viii) The public transport system is proposed to be strengthened by inducting 1500 buses of urban design into the DTC fleet.
- (ix) More than 200 private petrol pumps and workshops have been authorised by the Department of Transport, Government of Delhi for pollution checking, tuning of polluting vehicles and issuance of Pollution Under Control Certificates. Pollution checking facilities are being increased.
- (x) The Transport Department has launched public awareness campaigns in Delhi to educate people about the statutory punitive provisions related to vehicular pollution, health hazards, and on the maintenance measures for control of pollution from vehicles.
- (ix) A system of synchronised signals, and better traffic management of most polluted intersections has been introduced.
- (xii) A number of pollution industries located in non-conforming areas in Delhi have been closed or relocated to conforming areas
- (xiii) A scheme for setting up of common effluent treatment plants in different industrial areas and estates for treating effluents from clusters of small-scale industrial units in Delhi has been taken up.
- (xiv) Cleaning up of the river Yamuna has been taken up under the second phase of the Ganga Action Plan.
- (xv) Electrostatic precipitators have been installed in three thermal power plants in Delhi, at Indraprastha, Rajghat and Badarpur, to prevent the release of suspended particulate matter into the atmosphere. Sulphur dioxide and oxides of nitrogen are emitted through stacks of specified height to facilitate wider dispersal so that the ground level concentrations of these gaseous pollutants are kept controlled. Stack monitoring is done on a regular basis.

Poaching of Rare/Endangered Species

*69. Dr. ASIM BALA :
SHRI ANNASAHAB M.K. PATIL :

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

(a) whether poaching of Tiger and rare species of animals and birds continues to increase unabatedly taking a heavy toll of the animals and birds of rare species while the Government's attempt of checking the poaching is proving to be futile;

(b) if so, the details of poaching in identified pockets of the country, State-wise;

(c) fresh initiatives under consideration of the Union authorities in co-ordination with State Governments to deal with poaching menace more effectively during 1998-99 and Ninth Plan period;

(d) whether Government propose to introduce a comprehensive law for the protection of different endangered species of flora and fauna;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) the manner in which this law will benefit our country from the commercial point of view?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI SURESH PRABHU) : (a) and (b) No, Sir. However, sporadic cases of poaching of wild