

The level of Sulphur Dioxide (annual average norms- 50 mg/m³) are complied with in all four major cities whereas, exceeded for Nitrogen Dioxide (annual average norms-40 mg/m³) in Delhi and Kolkata. Levels of PM₁₀ are exceeded in all four major cities. A fluctuating or, mixed trend is being observed with respect to PM₁₀ and Nitrogen Dioxide is an upcoming parameters.

(d) Two epidemiological studies have been undertaken by CPCB through Chitranjan National Cancer Institute, Kolkata, namely, 'Epidemiological Study on Effect of Air Pollution on Human Health (adults) in Delhi'; and 'study on Ambient Air Quality, Respiratory Symptoms and Lung Function of Children in Delhi'. Another study was awarded by the Ministry of Environment and Forests to Institute of Health Systems, Hyderabad namely, 'Environmental Health effect-cause of Death in Hyderabad'.

(e) Summary of findings of above mentioned three studies is that because of the limitation in the assessment of the exposure and outcome variables, the findings should be regarded as preliminary observations.

(f) The steps taken to control air pollution during last three years at the national level, *inter alia*, include notifying revised ambient air quality standards (November, 2009); identifying 43 critically polluted areas (December, 2009) after a comprehensive study; notifying strict emission standards for 14 categories of industries, such as integrated iron and steel plant electroplating industry, grain processing industry, plaster of paris industry, incinerators, etc; increasing the use of gaseous fuel for public transport; strengthening public transport and metro rail in select cities; low floor based as intra city public transport in some cities; sale and registration of BS-IVcomplaint passenger cars in select cities; sale and supply of BSIV/III compliant fuel as per Auto Fuel Policy, etc.

Pollution level in Yamuna River

158. SHRI Y.S. CHOWDARY: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) the quantum of fund earmarked by the Ministry to reduce the pollution in Yamuna during the last three years;

(b) the details of amount spent during last three years;

- (c) whether the Government is satisfied with the result achieved, so far; and
 (d) if not, the steps taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRIMATI JAYANTHI NATARAJAN): (a) and (b) The details of funds released by this Ministry during the last three years for conservation of river Yamuna under the Yamuna Action Plan (YAP) are as under:

Year	Funds Released (Rs. in crore)	Expenditure including State share (Rs. crore)
2009-2010	105.00	170.91
2010-2011	111.49	198.64
2011-2012	47.06	125.18

(c) and (d) Conservation of river is an ongoing and collective effort of the Central and State Governments. This Ministry is supplementing the efforts of the State Governments in addressing the problem of pollution of river Yamuna by providing financial assistance to Uttar Pradesh, Delhi and Haryana under Yamuna Action Plan (YAP) in a phased manner since 1993. The works taken up under the YAP relate to sewerage/interception and diversion of drains, sewage treatment plants (STPs), low cost sanitation/community toilet complexes, electric/improved wood crematoria, etc.

Under Phase-I and II of YAP, 40 sewage treatment plants with a total capacity of 902.25 million liters per day, have been completed in 21 towns of Uttar Pradesh, Haryana and Delhi. The water quality of river Yamuna has not shown the desired improvement owing to a large gap between the demand and availability of sewage treatment capacity and lack of fresh water in the river. Further, the YAP Phase-III project for Delhi has been approved by the Ministry in December, 2011 at an estimated cost of Rs. 1656 crore. Besides this, two projects have also been sanctioned by the Ministry in July, 2012 at an estimated cost of Rs. 217.87 crore for taking up works for pollution abatement of river Yamuna in towns of Sonapat and Panipat in Haryana.

In addition, State Governments, apart from their own budgetary allocations, are also accessing financial assistance for creation of sewerage infrastructure, including setting up of sewage treatment plants, in various towns under other Central sector schemes like JNNURM (Jawaharlal Nehru National Urban Renewal Mission) and UIDSSMT (Urban Infrastructure Development Schemes for Small and Medium Towns) of Ministry of Urban Development.

Decline in forest cover in India

159. SHRI VIJAY JAWAHARLAL DARDA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has studied the 2011 Report of the Dehradun - based Forest Survey of India;

(b) if so, whether any reasons have been given for continued shrinkage of forest cover over the years;

(c) whether the tribals and other locals inhabiting in forest areas also contributed to this shrinkage;

(d) whether organized wood smuggling with the nexus of forest officials and wood mafia has been substantially responsible for this menace; and

(e) if so, the steps taken in the this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRIMATI JAYANTHI NATARAJAN): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. As per India State of Forest Report 2011, there 14 States/UTs have shown a decrease in forest cover to the extent of 867 square kilometers. 15 States/UTs have registered an aggregate increase of 500 square kilometers. Effectively there is a net decline of forest cover to the tune of 367 square kilometers. The names of States/UT showing decline in forest cover along with the reasons for decline is given in Statement (*See below*).

(c) As per India State of Forest Report-2011, there has been a net decline of 679 square kilometers in the forest cover of the tribal districts of the country. Decline in North East region of the country could mainly be attributed to the socio-cultural practice of jhum cultivation by tribal communities inhabiting the area.