

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF EARTH SCIENCES  
RAJYA SABHA  
UNSTARRED QUESTION No. 3211  
TO BE ANSWERED ON THURSDAY, DECEMBER 15, 2016**

**SMOG AND DUST OVER DELHI**

**3211. SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR:  
SHRI R.VAITHILINGAM:**

**Will the Minister of EARTH SCIENCES be pleased to state:**

- (a) **whether abnormal pollution levels like huge smog and dust collected over Delhi and other parts of Northern India had been reported recently and if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor; and**
- (b) **whether Government has taken any measures to counter such situation and if so, the details thereof?**

**ANSWER**

**MINISTER OF STATE FOR MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND  
MINISTRY OF EARTH SCIENCES  
(SHRI Y. S. CHOWDARY)**

(a) **Yes Sir.**

**Widespread smog occurred at many places over Punjab, Haryana, Delhi, National Capital Region (NCR) and adjoining west-Uttar Pradesh during 29<sup>th</sup> October-6<sup>th</sup> November 2016. This phenomenon occurred mainly due to following reasons.**

- Wind pattern which prevailed over northwest India has contributed for increased concentration of pollutants over Delhi over and above the sources of pollution within.**
- Stable atmospheric conditions have further restricted dispersion of pollution from Delhi and NCR.**

(b) **In order to assist airport operations, India Meteorological Department (IMD) has implemented Runway visual range (RVR) based fog monitoring system at various airports (New Delhi, Amritsar, Lucknow, Jaipur and Varanasi). For early warning of fog development, IMD has already implemented satellite and surface Met data based fog nowcast system with lead time of just 1-6 hours in advance at above mentioned airports.**

**System of Air Quality and weather Forecasting and Research (SAFAR) has been jointly set-up by Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology (IITM), Pune and IMD to complement the air quality measurements of Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) and Delhi Pollution Control Committee (DPCC) within Delhi and NCR for the continued assessment of air quality changes from time to time.**

**Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEF&CC) and Delhi Government undertook various measures such as closure of Badarpur power plant, watering of pavements, regulating construction activity, regulating flow of heavy transport vehicles passing through Delhi etc. for minimizing local emissions.**

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