

PRESS INFORMATION BUREAU**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA****NATIONAL AMBIENT NOISE MONITORING NETWORK LAUNCHED TODAY****MOEF GETS RS. 200 CRORES UNDER BIOREMEDIATION FOR FIRST TIME****New Delhi: Chaitra 02 ,1932**

March 23, 2011

Shri Jairam Ramesh, Minister of State for Environment and Forests launched the Real time Ambient Noise Monitoring Network here today. In its first phase, it will cover 35 stations in 7 cities. Shri Ramesh said, "Next year from 35 stations in 7 cities to 106 stations in 25 cities is going to be a huge task. I hope CPCB will be able to fulfil this objective. CPCB's work is 1st stage. All State Pollution Control Boards (SPCBs) will have to act on real time data generated so far. This has to be used to smooth the traffic." Referring to constantly exceeding noise level in Delhi at ITO, the Minister said a standard prescribed level of 65 decibels should be maintained. I urge state governments to use this date for actual time intervention."

Highlighting two other initiatives of Central Pollution Control Board, Shri Ramesh said, "Four highly polluting industries, viz. tanneries, distilleries, craft paper and dying which fall in Red category, will be turned from highly polluting to green industries by end of this year. Steps have been initiated in this direction. The second initiative of bioremediation has great untapped potential in our country. It is relatively an inexpensive, cost-effective technology to clean rivers. Five projects have been taken under National Ganga River Basin Authority and one in Ludhiana i.e. Buddhanala. This will give quick results in terms of cleaning operations."

Shri Ramesh informed about special allocation of Rs. 200 crore under environmental remediation for the Ministry in this year's Budget. This will be used for cleaning operations in highly polluted areas.

Real Time Ambient Noise Monitoring Network will cover seven metros in phase-I viz. Delhi, Hyderabad, Kolkata, Mumbai, Bangalore and Chennai have been selected and in each Metro five Remote Monitoring Terminals have been installed in different noise zones for continuous monitoring. In Phase-II, another 35 Noise Monitoring Stations will be installed in the same seven cities and in Phase III, Real Time Noise Network will be expanded by 90 stations to cover 18 other major cities by 2012. Phase-III cities include Kanpur, Pune, Surat, Ahmedabad, Nagpur, Jaipur, Indore, Bhopal, Ludhiana, Guwahati, Dehradun, Thiruvananthapuram, Bhubaneswar, Patna, Gandhinagar, Ranchi, Amritsar and Raipur. The network in the major Metros will also be augmented by establishing more noise monitoring stations.

Joint Secretary Shri Rajneesh Dubey said, “Today is a historic day. For the first time in India, we are having a National Noise Monitoring Network. This should have done 10 years back, when the Ministry notified the noise rules. This is real time when this system is essential. People ask about level of noise pollution. We have prescribed level for this. Noise Pollution has adverse effects on humans. When we identify, recognise and assess the noise level, a red flag can be shown to stakeholders and public at large. The regulatory authorities’ responsibility will be to curtail it. This will be a 24x7 data. We have a national roadmap in place. We are able to detect fluctuations in silence zones which will be under control now.”

The Minister released a brochure on National Ambient Noise Monitoring Network and Newsletter Parivesh.

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