

PRESS RELEASE

CEED RELEASED A REPORT TITLED- 'TOWARDS HEALTHY AIR FOR PATNA, TO CURB AIR POLLUTION'

“Non-domestic sector burns 81 lakh liters of diesel which emits 35000 Kg of Particulate Matters/year”

Patna, January 17, 2016: Every lungful of breath we inhale in Patna often contains high Respirable Suspended Particulate Matter (RSPM), much above the permissible limits. As per the World Health Organization¹ (WHO), Patna is second most polluted city with high level of concentrated particulate matter. The high level of toxic air pollution (PM PM2.5 & PM10) in Patna is reported at 149 micrograms and 164 micrograms respectively. It is six times more of what is considered safe. It is estimated that millions of people will suffer health issues due to inhalation of poor air quality in Patna. The dangerous level of air pollution in Patna has highlighted the need for immediate action to control it.

While releasing the report 'Towards Healthy Air for Patna', Mr. Ramapati Kumar, Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Centre for Environment and Energy Development (CEED) said that; “The wide gap in demand and supply of electricity is one of the major source of Patna’s bad air quality, either by industrial emission in region or usage of diesel for power back-up in non domestic sector”. Diesel usage for power back-up alone contributes to high level of air pollution in Patna. The other factor contributing to bad air quality in Patna is overwhelming concentration of vehicles, industrial emission, and dust particles. The exponential rise in the air pollution in Patna require immediate robust plan to tackle it, and to spread massive awareness on ‘high health risk’ posed by air pollution. Bihar government must show strong political will to take immediate action to curb pollution now, Mr. Kumar further said.

Ms. Ankita Jyoti, program Manager of CEED observed that Non-domestic sector of Patna is burning about 81 lakh liters of diesel and releasing 35,000 kilogram (Kg) of toxic particulate matter, only to satisfy one hour of electricity demand. Patna is reported to have power outage in the range of two to nine hours every day. She further said Particulate matter will increase from 205 µg/m³ to 383 µg/m³, by 2031, if control measures are not implemented immediately. Elaborating on threat posed by air pollution, Ms. Jyoti said “Millions of people will be at risk of serious health issues due to inhalation of poor air quality in Patna”.

Talking further on the air pollution in Patna, Jyoti said “Patna certainly can take immediate steps to reverse the air pollution by powering rooftop with clean solar energy”. It can generate 80 MW² of solar energy by using 0.91 SQ KM of qualified solar roof space in next one year.

1 Outdoor Air Pollution Database, WHO 2015 (http://www.who.int/gho/phe/outdoor_air_pollution/exposure/en/)

2 Rooftop Revolution- uncovering Patna’s solar roof top potential, www.ceedindia.org

There should be clear action plan with timeline and target to implement solar power qualified roof space in non-domestic sector. The economy of solar energy is much attractive, and must be implemented. The unit cost of solar energy is much cheaper than the unit cost of electricity generated on diesel. Bihar government needs to show that, it is working towards controlling air pollution by taking strict measures.

CEED has listed fifteen points program to control air pollution in Patna. Implementation of clean energy, usage of clean fuel for cooking, improved transport system, stringent emission targets for industries, awareness and emergency alert system are some of the suggestion made in the report 'Towards Healthy Air for Patna'. Bihar Government must show that it cares for its people and therefore must take immediate action to improve the air quality in Patna.

Mr. Ramapati Kumar, CEO of CEED further emphasized that air pollution is not limited to geography of Patna alone, hence, Bihar Government must adopt time-bound plan to curb pollution and engage at regional and national level for lasting solution. However, it must take action of its own starting with clean energy, access to clean fuel for cooking and improved transport system in short to medium term.

FOR MORE INFORMATION;

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