



Vehicular pollution in valley on rise

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SRINAGAR, Sept 17 (PTI) — Vehicular emission has emerged as a prime source of air pollution in urban as well as some rural areas of Jammu and Kashmir.

The vehicular transport contributes 99 per cent of carbondioxide and 46 per cent nitrogen discharge in the atmosphere which is hazardous for health, according to a state Pollution Control Board estimate.

The emission of hydrocarbon and nitrogen oxides during morning rush hours leads to development of smog and the problem gets aggravated with more vehicles plying on the roads during the day.

During the past 10 years, the vehicular pollution in the Kashmir valley has increased over three-fold. From 25,253 vehicles in 1986, the number went up to 80,143 in 1997.

According to a survey conducted by the board, the smoke density of about 85 per cent diesel-driven vehicles do not conform to the standards.

The board has been monitoring emission of diesel vehicles with the help of a smoke meter at different places on the national highway, including Parimpora, Pampore, Awantipora, Athwajan and Peer Bagh on the Srinagar airport road and the Baba Damb area in the interior of Srinagar.

Surprisingly, out of 430 vehicles, private and government, monitored by the board, 365 vehicles did not conform to the standards, the board said.

At Athwajan on the outskirts of Srinagar, only 15 per cent of the 254 private vehicles monitored conformed to the standards, while just one of the 30 vehicles checked for smoke density at Baba Damb fulfilled the standard.

"Random pollution checking of vehicles at the selected stations alone is not going to help or yield positive results. Strict enforcement of rules is imperative," the board said.

The Transport Department and the traffic police are vested with powers to control the pollution level in the cities of Jammu and Srinagar.

Meanwhile, the board has asked the petrol stations not to supply fuel to those vehicles which do not have "pollution in control certificates"