

This is why SC singled out diesel vehicles

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New Delhi: IIT-Kanpur's draft report on air pollution in Delhi has revealed that diesel vehicles are a major source of particulate matter (PM) emissions in the transport sector. The report that was submitted to the Delhi government recently was extensively quoted by senior advocate Harish Salve in the Supreme Court on Tuesday. It showed how barring Rohini, diesel vehicles contributed to 60%-90% of PM 2.5 (fine, respirable pollution particles) emissions in Delhi. At Vasant Kunj for instance, they contributed to about 90% of vehicular emissions while in Okhla, the emission was about 80%.

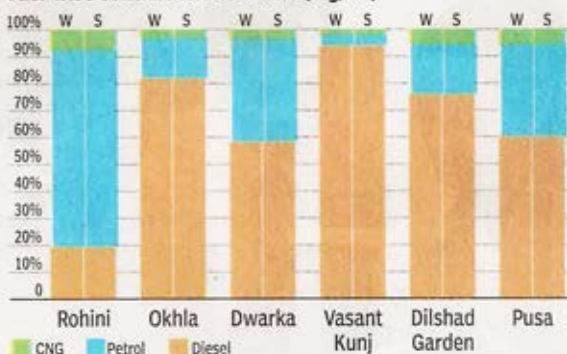
Through his note, Salve also submitted that the major sources of PM 2.5 in winter are vehicles and biomass burning and in summer, it's road dust, coal or flyash. While the top two sources of PM 2.5 emissions over the year were found to be road dust (38%) and vehicles (20%), the top two for NOx emissions are industry stacks (52%) and vehicles at 36%.

The note highlighted a correlation between rising particulate pollution and vehicle numbers—since 2000, vehicle numbers in Delhi have increased by 97%, while particulate levels (PM) have increased by 75% between 2002 and 2014.

During the same period, the NOx levels have also increased, Salve said quoting the Central Pollution Control Board. Conversely, the levels of carbon monoxide (CO) has reduced by about 50% during the same period.

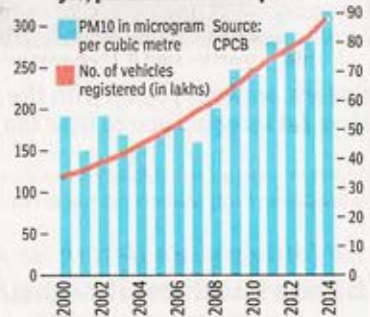
DIESEL POLLUTES ROUND THE YEAR

Fuel-wise contributors to PM2.5 (mg/m³)



Note: W - Winter; S - Summer. Source: Draft Report 2015 - Comprehensive study on Air Pollution and Green House Gases (GHGs) in Delhi (for Delhi govt) by IIT Kanpur

No. of vehicles rises 97% in 14 yrs, particulate levels up 75%



THE TWO BIGGEST CULPRITS

WINTER

Vehicles **25%**

Biomass burning **26%**

SUMMER

Road dust **27%**

Coal & fly ash **26%**

Source: IIT Kanpur draft report

"There is a serious concern over the growing use of diesel in transport sector. While trucks are captive user of diesel, cars are using it by choice due to lower prices of fuel. The IIT-Kanpur study has shown that in different locations of their study in Delhi diesel vehicles contribute hugely to PM2.5," the note said. It further explained that one of the main reasons why diesel vehicles are so polluting is the lack of uniform emissions norms across the country.

"Rapid dieselization of cars is of special concern as it is contributing to the pollutants...in Delhi—PM2.5 and NOx. Under the current norms, diesel cars are legally allowed to emit seven times more particulate matter and three times more nitrogen oxides than petrol cars," Salve added in the note. The note which sought implementation of BS VI by 2020 said WHO has classified diesel exhaust in the same category as tobacco smoking for its strong link to lung cancer.