

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS  
LOK SABHA**

STARRED QUESTION NO:199

ANSWERED ON:10.03.2010

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT OF INDUSTRIAL CLUSTER

Pathak Shri Harin;Rathwa Shri Ramsinhbhai Patalbhai

**Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:**

- (a) whether the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) in association with the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), New Delhi has recently carried out an environmental assessment of the industrial cluster;
- (b) if so, the terms of reference for the said study assigned to IIT, Delhi and the outcome of the said assessment;
- (c) whether the Union Government has imposed any restrictions on consideration of development projects for environmental clearance;
- (d) if so, the details thereof;
- (e) whether the Union Government has consulted the State Governments and other stake holders before imposing such restrictions;
- (f) if so, the details thereof; and
- (g) the steps taken by the Union Government in this regard?

**Answer**

MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) FOR ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS(SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH)

(a) to (g) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARA (a) TO (g) OF LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO.199 FOR 10.03.2010 REGARDING ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT OF INDUSTRIAL CLUSTER BY SHRI HARIN PATHAK AND RAMSINH RATHWA:

(a) Yes, Sir. The Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) in collaboration with the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), New Delhi has recently carried out an environmental assessment of industrial clusters based on a Comprehensive Environmental Pollution Index (CEPI).

(b) The Central Pollution Control Board during the year 2008 instituted a study through Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), Delhi for assessment of industrial pollution load discharges in the Ghaziabad Area (Uttar Pradesh). One of the Terms of Reference of the study related to evolving criteria for identification of critically polluted areas. Subsequently, IIT, Delhi was entrusted with the task to carry out an environmental assessment of prominent industrial clusters in the country. Accordingly, a comprehensive environmental assessment of 88 identified industrial clusters has been carried out based on CEPI. Out of the identified 88 industrial clusters, 43 industrial clusters with CEPI scores equal to or more than 70, have been identified as Critically Polluted Areas.

(c)&(d) Yes, Sir. The Union Government has imposed a temporary moratorium on 13.01.2010 on consideration of developmental projects in critically polluted industrial clusters/areas including the projects in pipeline for clearance with immediate effect till August, 2010. However, projects of public interest such as projects of national importance, pollution control, defence and security have been kept outside the purview of these restrictions and will be considered on merits on a case to case basis (Annexure).

(e)&(f)&(g) It was resolved in the National Conference of Ministers of Environment and Forests held on 18th August, 2009, at New Delhi that a time bound action programme for handling the industrial clusters having serious environmental pollution levels, to be implemented jointly by the Central and State Pollution Control Boards, would be worked out. It was also resolved that the Central Government will issue guidelines for identification of critically polluted areas and the monitoring protocol to be enforced. Subsequently, a presentation on the findings of the comprehensive environmental assessment conducted by IIT, New Delhi was made in a workshop on the subject on 24.12.2009, in which representatives from State Pollution Control Boards and Pollution Control Committees participated.

The Central Pollution Control Boards in coordination with State Pollution Control Boards/Pollution Control Committees has undertaken the task of preparation of Action Plans to improve the environmental quality in the 43 critically polluted areas.