

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2236  
ANSWERED ON:10.03.2010  
POLLUTION IN HISTORICAL BUILDINGS  
Rajaram Shri Wakchaure Bhausahab

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

- (a) whether measures have been taken by the Union Government to make historical building in the country pollution free;
- (b) if so, the details thereof, and
- (c) the State-wise names of those historical buildings of the country which have been made pollution free as on date?

**Answer**

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

(a)&(b) In order to reduce environmental pollution in and around the historical buildings, the industrial and pollution causing commercial activities near the historical buildings have been prohibited. The State Governments have also drawn local area specific programmes for containing pollution near the historical buildings. The National Ambient Air Quality Standards have been notified including standards for sensitive areas, which includes national monuments. Monitoring of air quality is being undertaken by the Central and State Pollution Control Boards under their National Ambient Quarterly Monitoring Programme in the vicinity of monuments to assess and preserve air quality around such monuments.

The Ministry of Environment and Forests, in pursuance of the order of Hon'ble Supreme Court in Writ Petition No. 13381 of 1984 initiated projects for environmental protection of World Heritage Site of Taj Mahal. In the first phase, during the IX Five Year Plan, ten projects related to improvement in electric supply at Agra, Gokul barrage, widening of Agra by pass, storm water drainage, solid waste management, improvement of roads, water supply etc. were approved with a total cost of Rs. 222 crore with 50:50 cost sharing with the Government of Uttar Pradesh. A Taj Trapezium Zone (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Authority has also been constituted in 1999 under the Chairmanship of Commissioner, Agra to monitor programmes for protection and improvement of the environment in and around the Taj Mahal. Several restrictions have also been imposed in the Taj Trapezium Zone (TTZ) for the establishment of new industries and expansion of the existing industries within TTZ.

The Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) has established monitoring stations for the monitoring of ambient air quality/metrological parameters in the vicinity of Ajanta Caves, Ajanta, Taj Mahal, Agra Fort and Sikandra at Agra, Sravanabelgola, District Hassan and Charminar, Hyderabad

(c) Since pollution is a cross cutting issue with various dimensions like air, water, noise, solid waste and soil, it is difficult to say which of these heritage buildings have been made pollution free as on date.