

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1673
ANSWERED ON:04.08.2010
AIR POLLUTION AROUND TAJ MAHAL
Anandan Shri K.Murugesan

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

- (a) whether air pollution levels around the Taj Mahal are rising despite the Government having spent huge amount to reduce pollution;
- (b) if so, the details and the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether the National Environmental Engineering Research Institute (NEERI), Nagpur has submitted any report in this regard;
- (d) if so, the details of the report; and
- (e) the steps taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

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

(a) & (b) The Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) has been monitoring ambient air quality at Taj Mahal in terms of Suspended Particulate Matter (SPM), Particulate Matter of size less than 10 microns (PM10), Sulphur Dioxide (SO₂) and Nitrogen Dioxide (NO₂). The analysis of the data of CPCB for the last eight years from 2002 to 2009 indicates that the annual concentration of SPM, PM10, SO₂ and NO₂ is not showing any increasing trend. However, the levels of SPM and PM10 are exceeding the permissible limits. The details are provided in the Annexure. The high particulate levels are mainly due to the background arid and dusty conditions prevailing in the region.

(c) to (e) The final report on the post evaluation of the eight selected projects under Taj Trapezium Zone (TTZ) undertaken by the National Environmental Engineering Research Institute (NEERI), Nagpur has been accepted by the Ministry. As per the report, the road and electricity related projects have been found to make a substantial impact on the environmental quality in Agra whereas the solid waste and storm water drainage related projects have had a limited impact. The State Government of U.P. has been requested to formulate and submit fresh proposals based on the Environment Management Plan (EMP) given in the report.