GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3560
ANSWERED ON:01.12.2010
RESTRICTION ON DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS
Gaddigoudar Shri P.C.

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

(a) whether the Government had imposed restrictions on development, construction and infrastructure projects in critically polluted areas in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;

(c) whether urban development process has been hampered due to these restrictions; and

(d) if so, the further action taken/proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

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

(a) & (b): Based on the identification of industrial clusters / areas by the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) as critically or severely polluted, Ministry of Environment & Forests vide Office Memorandum dated 13.1.2010 have imposed a temporary restriction for a period of 8 months up to August, 2010, on consideration of developmental projects for environmental clearance in such critically polluted clusters. During this period, the CPCB along with the respective State Pollution Control Boards / UT Pollution Control Committees were required to finalize a time bound action plan for improving the environmental quality in these identified industrial clusters / areas. The moratorium has subsequently been extended up to 31st March, 2011. While extending this, the moratorium has been lifted in five areas / industrial clusters, whose action plans have been finalized by CPCB.

(c): Projects of public interest such as projects of national importance, pollution control, defence and security have been kept outside the purview of these restrictions.

(d): Based on preparation of action plans in respect of the remaining areas/industrial clusters by the respective State Pollution Control Boards, their finalization by CPCB and initiation of action for their implementation, the matter would be reviewed for taking a decision cluster wise / area wise.