

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
EARTH SCIENCES
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:748

ANSWERED ON:04.08.2011

DEVELOPMENT OF SAFAR

Panda Shri Baijayant;Pradhan Shri Nityananda

Will the Minister of EARTH SCIENCES be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has developed a System of Air Quality Forecasting and Research (SAFAR) in the country;
- (b) if so the details thereof;
- (c) whether the above system has earned praise from United Nations and other world agencies;
- (d) if so, the details thereof;
- (e) whether the above system will monitor air-quality on an hourly basis; and
- (f) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EARTH SCIENCES(SHRI ASHWANI KUMAR)

(a) Yes Madam. The Pilot Project is operative in New Delhi, Since September, 2010.

(b) The SAFAR provides site specific information on Air Quality in near real time and its forecast for the next 24 hours. It is complemented by the weather monitoring and forecasting system designed by the India Meteorological Department (IMD) for the National Capital Region (NCR) of Delhi. SAFAR is the first air quality forecasting (AQF) system for India.

(c) Yes Madam.

(d) A report of the World Meteorological Organisation's (WMOs) Global Atmospheric Watch (GAW) Strategic Plan 2008-2015 released in May 2011 identifies SAFAR as a successfully demonstrated pilot project implemented under the facilitator and catalyst role of the GAW Urban Research Meteorology and Environment (GURME) Program. GURME was launched by WMO to assist in enhancing the capabilities in handling meteorological and related aspects of urban pollution.

(e) Yes Madam.

(f) The SAFAR system provides a continuous monitoring platform for different air pollutants on hourly basis. The air quality information is provided for the following key pollutants namely O₃, NO₂, CO, PM₁₀, PM_{2.5}, Black Carbon, and Benzene.