

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

STARRED QUESTION NO:636
ANSWERED ON:21.05.2012
POLLUTION IN HERITAGE BUILDINGS
Nagar Shri Surendra Singh

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

- (a) whether measures have been taken by the Union Government to reduce the environmental pollution in and around the historical buildings in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof,
- (c) whether there is any monitoring by the Government to observe the impact of the measures being taken in this regard;
- (d) if so, the outcome thereof; and
- (e) the details of the historical monuments which have been kept under observation to protect them, State-wise?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) FOR ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRIMATI JAYANTHI NATARAJAN)

(a) to (e). A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO PARTS (a) TO (e) IN REPLY TO LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 636 DUE FOR REPLY ON 21.05.2012 RAISED BY SHRI SURENDRA SINGH NAGAR REGARDING 'POLLUTION IN HERITAGE BUILDINGS'.

(a)&(b). In order to reduce environmental pollution in and around the historical buildings, the industrial and pollution causing commercial activities near such 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 eco sensitive areas, which include national monuments.

(c)to(e). Monitoring of air quality is being undertaken by the Central and State Pollution Control Boards under their National Ambient Air Monitoring Programme (NAMP) in cities and towns, in the vicinity of monuments to assess the air quality around such monuments. The Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) has established monitoring stations for the monitoring of ambient air quality/ metrological parameters at certain historical buildings.

Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) protected monuments where control measures to check the possible impact of pollution have been taken are : Taj Mahal (Agra, Uttar Pradesh); Red Fort (Delhi); Ajanta Caves (Ajanta, Maharashtra); Bibi-Ka-Maqbara (Aurangabad, Maharashtra); and Charminar (Hyderabad, Andhra Pradesh).