

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2602
ANSWERED ON:10.12.2012
CHECK ON ENVIRONMENTAL BALANCE
Pandey Saroj

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

- (a) whether rampant industrialisation has adversely affected the environmental balance in the country;
- (b) if so, the most such affected areas of the country; and
- (c) the steps taken by the Government to tackle the situation?

Answer

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

(a) Yes, rampant industrialisation and consequent discharge of gaseous and liquid effluents by the large categories of industries and by the industrial clusters is impacting environmental balance in the country.

(b) & (c) The Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) in collaboration with Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), Delhi had conducted a survey based on Comprehensive Environmental Pollution Index (CEPI) criteria in 2009 for assessment of pollution load of industrial areas in 88 major industrial clusters in the country. Out of these, 43 industrial clusters having CEPI score more than 70 have been identified as Critically Polluted Areas (CPAs). The State-wise list of critically polluted clusters /areas is enclosed at Annexure.

The Ministry of Environment & Forests has imposed a moratorium on 13.01.2010 on grant of environmental clearances for developmental projects in these 43 critically polluted industrial clusters. For restoration of environmental quality in these polluted clusters, State Pollution Control Board (SPCBs) were asked to prepare Action Plans. The Action Plans prepared by SPCBs have been reviewed by CPCB. Based on Action Plans and the initiation of implementation measures the moratorium has been lifted by the Ministry in 26 industrial clusters/areas.