

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2749
ANSWERED ON:10.12.2012
AIR QUALITY INDEX
Singh Shri Ravneet

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

- (a) the number and the name of the cities where Air Quality Index is over 201 and 301 have been reported;
- (b) the reasons for such high levels of Air Quality Index; and
- (c) the preventive measures being taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

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

(a) to (c): Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) had sponsored a project on Air Quality Index (AQI) to the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), Kanpur (1999-2001). IIT, Kanpur had completed the project and has placed findings on its website. However, CPCB has not accepted AQI in view of validation of data and parameters to be covered for developing the index. The steps taken by the Government to improve the ambient air quality inter alia, includes:

- i. A comprehensive Policy for Abatement of Pollution that lays stress on both the control and preventive aspects of pollution has been formulated;
- ii. City specific action plans have also been prepared and are at various stages of implementation;
- iii. Emission standards for on-road vehicles and mass emission standards for new vehicles have been notified under the Motor Vehicles Act, 1988 and are enforced by Transport Departments of the State Governments.
- iv. Unleaded petrol is supplied in the entire country from 1.2.2000. Bharat Stage-IV emission norms have been introduced in 13 mega cities for new 4-wheelers in 2010. Bharat stage III norms have been introduced for two, three wheelers and diesel driven agricultural tractors from April 1, 2010 throughout the country.
- v. Compressed Natural Gas (CNG) is supplied for automobiles through a number of retail outlets in Delhi and Mumbai to cater the CNG vehicles.
- vi. Emission standards for industries have been notified under the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 to check pollution.