

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3385
ANSWERED ON:18.03.2013
LAUNCH OF ECO CITY PROJECTS
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Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has initiated `ECO City Projects` to transform cities like Tirupati, and other religious places in the country into model tourist destinations;
- (b) if so, the status of the project;
- (c) whether the Government proposes to include other religious places in the country under this project with a view to boost religious tourism in the country;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the steps taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

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

(a) to (e) Yes, the Eco-City Scheme was initiated by the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) in 2002-03 in selected towns/cities with a view to improving environment through implementation of the identified environmental improvement projects. The religious places where Eco-City Scheme was taken up, include

- (i) Tirupati (Andhra Pradesh),
- (ii) Vrindavan (Uttar Pradesh),
- (iii) Ujjain (Madhya Pradesh),
- (iv) Puri (Odisha),

(v) Kottayam (Kerala) and

(vi) Thanjavur (Tamil Nadu). Under this Scheme limited success was achieved in Tirupati, Andhra Pradesh.

In view of the limited capacities of State Pollution Control Boards (SPCBs), the lack of coordination between CPCB, SPCBs and Municipalities, and availability of other schemes for Urban development like Jawahar Lal Nehru Urban Renewal Mission (JNNURM), it was decided in October 2011 to close the Eco-city Scheme of CPCB in the public interest.