

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:5409
ANSWERED ON:29.04.2013
POLLUTION EFFECT ON HISTORICAL BUILDINGS
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Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has taken any steps to protect the historical buildings from pollution;
- (b) if so, the details thereof along with the names of the historical buildings, State-wise; and
- (c) the action taken by the Government in this regard along with the names of the buildings which have been made pollution free during the last three years?

Answer

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

(a)to(c) The historical buildings (which include monuments and religious structures) located in cities / towns are threatened by vehicular emissions and other gaseous pollutants being emitted in the air. The Statewise list of important historical buildings is given at Annexure-I. At national level, there is a comprehensive plan for controlling vehicular pollution. As per the Auto Fuel Policy, time targets have been set to achieve the standards with respect to new manufacturing vehicles and improving fuel quality. At State and City level, the State Government, State Pollution Control Boards / Pollution Control Committees are monitoring the air quality. The ambient air quality monitoring is being carried out in 18 states covering 39 cities. The results of ambient air quality monitoring in these cities for the year 2011 is given at Annexure-II. As per the ambient air quality data, it has been observed that levels of Sulphur Dioxide (SO₂) are within the National Ambient Air Quality Standard of 50 microgram per cubic meter (Åµg/m³) and levels of Nitrogen Dioxide (NO₂) have exceeded the standard of 40 Åµg/m³ in the cities of Raipur, Delhi, Faridabad, Pune and Kolkata. In the case of Particulate Matter (PM₁₀), the levels of PM₁₀ are within the standards of 60 Åµg/m³ only in the cities of Shimla, Hassan, Mangalore, Mysore, Kottayam and Madurai. The remaining 33 cities are not meeting the PM₁₀ standards.