

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:123
ANSWERED ON:05.08.2013
MOST POLLUTED CITIES
Agarwal Shri Jai Prakash

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

- (a) whether the Government has conducted/proposes to conduct any survey about the most polluted cities in the country;
- (b) if so, the names of the cities as per their ranking and their position in the list of the polluted cities of the world;
- (c) the existing level of pollution in each of these cities; and
- (d) the steps taken by the Government to check the increasing pollution?

Answer

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

(a) & (b): The level of pollution with respect to ambient air is regularly monitored at 550 locations in 234 cities, towns and industrial areas across the country by the Central Pollution Control Board in association with various state pollution control boards, pollution control committees for Union Territories and NEERI, Nagpur in terms of Sulphur Dioxide (SO₂), Nitrogen Dioxide (NO₂) and PM₁₀ (particulate matter size equal to or less than 10 micron) under National Air Monitoring Programme (NAMP). Air quality data for the year 2011 reveals that the annual average concentration of SO₂ is within the limit (50 microgramme per cubic metre) in all the metro cities monitored while levels of NO₂ have exceeded the limit of 40 microgramme per cubic metre in eight metro cities, namely Asansol, Delhi, Jamshedpur, Kolkata, Meerut, Faridabad, Pune and Mumbai during 2010. The standards of PM₁₀ (60 ug/m³) are exceeded in 42 metro cities but, complied with in Kollam, Kozikode, Mallapuram, Thiruvananthapuram, Trishur, Kochi and Madurai.

As far as ranking of the most polluted cities in a country or world is concerned, there is no standard methodology to rank the most polluted city. However, various organizations have come out with their own ranking of most polluted cities based on different pollutants with varying objectives.

(c) & (d): The Government has notified the revised National Ambient Air Quality Standards for 12 pollutants in November, 2009, taking into account public health impact and global best practices. The Government has also notified source specific emission norms for different categories of industries, processes and equipments.

The steps taken by the Government to contain pollution in the cities include, inter-alia, strengthening of public transport, supply of cleaner fuel as per Auto Fuel Policy, use of beneficiated coal in thermal power plants, more stringent mass emission norms (BS IV/BS III) for new vehicles in select cities, 'Pollution Under Control' certificate system for in-use vehicles, strict implementation of emission norms in air polluting industries. In addition, city-specific Ambient Air Quality Improvement Programme for 17 identified cities is implemented by concerned authority.