

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:579

ANSWERED ON:09.12.2013

EFFECTS OF POLLUTION ON HISTORICAL MONUMENTS

Agarwal Shri Jai Prakash

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, Statewise; and
- (c) the action taken by the Government in this regard along with the names of the buildings which have been saved from pollution 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, gaseous emissions and anthropogenic activities which pose threat of environmental pollution to these historical buildings. 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, Archaeological Department and Local Administration including Monument Management Authorities have taken measures for better environmental management.

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 this 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 (Âµg/m³) and levels of Nitrogen Dioxide (NO₂) have exceeded the standard of 40 Âµg/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 Âµg/m³ only in the cities of Shimla, Hassan, Mangalore, Mysore, Kottayam and Madurai. The remaining 33 cities are not meeting the PM₁₀ standards.