

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
ENVIRONMENT, FORESTS AND CLIMATE CHANGE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1358

ANSWERED ON:03.03.2015

AIR QUALITY INDEX

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

- (a) whether the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) has too many glitches in real time monitoring of Air Quality Index (AQI) and do not possess adequate automatic monitoring stations;
- (b) if so, the details thereof along with the number of automatic monitoring stations required and functioning at present;
- (c) whether the Government proposes to introduce a uniform air quality index for all the metro cities in the country and if so, the details thereof;
- (d) whether the Government has conducted any study/survey through its own agencies or reputed institutes regarding air quality in cities of the country, if so, the details and outcome thereof; and
- (e) the remedial measures being taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) FOR ENVIRONMENT, FORESTS AND CLIMATE CHANGE (SHRI PRAKASH JAVADEKAR)

(a) to (c). The data on ambient air quality is regularly generated by the concerned State Pollution Control Boards (SPCBs) / Pollution Control Committees (PCCs) and Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB), using manual stations and continuous monitoring stations, as available. A total of 48 continuous stations are operated in 16 metro cities by concerned SPCBs / PCCs for UTs and CPCB. The equipments are regularly calibrated and no glitch in respect of data quality has been reported by CPCB. The CPCB has taken the task of strengthening monitoring in metro cities in association with SPCBs / PCCs.

The CPCB has also undertaken the task of informing public on ambient air quality through Air Quality Index (AQI). The proposed AQI is loaded on the website of CPCB for comments before finalisation.

(d). The ambient air quality is regularly monitored under National Air Monitoring Programme (NAMP) in 244 cities, towns and industrial areas by concerned SPCBs/PCCs, NEERI and CPCB and the data is analysed by CPCB. As per analysis for the year 2013, the levels of Sulphur Dioxide (annual average) are within the prescribed norms in 39 monitored metro cities while Nitrogen Dioxide (annual average) is within norms within 33 out of 39 cities monitored. However, levels of PM10 exceeded the norms in 37 out of 39 metro cities.

(e). The Government has taken various measures to contain air pollution in the country, which interalia include, supply of cleaner fuels as per Auto Fuel Policy, use of gaseous fuel for public transport, pollution under control (PUC) certificate system for in-use vehicles, stringent source specific emission standards and their compliance, use of beneficiated coal in thermal power plants, strengthening public transport, expansion of metro train system, implementation of revised emission norms for gensets, cement plants, etc.