

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2219

ANSWERED ON:10.03.2015

OUTCOME OF MEASURES FOR POLLUTION CONTROL

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

- (a) whether the Government has conducted any survey to study the outcome of the measures implemented for curbing air pollution in the country and if so, the details thereof;
- (b) the details of the air quality norms / criteria issued by the World Health Organisation (WHO);
- (c) whether the Government proposes to start any programme for achieving the standard of air quality prescribed in the WHO norms/criteria; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof and the time by which the said standard is likely to be achieved?

Answer

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

(a) & (b). The ambient air quality is regularly monitored covering 244 cities, towns and industrial areas across the country. As an outcome of measures implemented for curbing air pollution, the levels of Lead and Sulphur Dioxide (annual average) are within the norms as per National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS-2009) across the country. However, the levels of particulate matter are exceeding the norms in a majority of cities and towns with fluctuating trend.

World Health Organisation (WHO) published Air Quality Guidelines for Europe in 1987 for the first time while second time in 2000. A Global Update was brought out in 2005 by WHO. Said Guidelines were taken into account by the Government while revisiting and notifying the National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS) in November, 2009 in the Gazette.

(c) & (d). The Government has taken various policy and regulatory measures to contain air pollution in the country and achieve NAAQS, which inter alia include, supply of cleaner fuels as per Auto Fuel Policy, sale of unleaded petrol, 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.

The number of activities to curb air pollution are inter-Ministerial or within the domain of various organs of the Governments including local bodies to achieve the notified norms. It is not possible to predict the timeline for achieving the NAAQS-2009.