

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

STARRED QUESTION NO:134
ANSWERED ON:16.07.2014
CRITICALLY POLLUTED AREAS
Patil Shri Chandrakant Raghunath

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

- (a) whether the Union Government has declared certain industrial clusters in various States including Gujarat as critically polluted areas ;
- (b) if so, the details thereof ;
- (c) whether the Government has imposed a moratorium on new projects/expansion of existing projects in such critically polluted areas and if so, the details thereof ;
- (d) the time by which the Government is likely to lift the moratorium and accord environmental clearance, State-wise, including for Gujarat ; and
- (e) the details of steps taken so far to harmonise industrial development vis-a-vis environmental concerns ?

Answer

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

(a) to (e): A statement is laid on the Table of the House

Statement referred to in reply to Lok Sabha Starred Question No. 134 due for reply on 16.7.2014 regarding `Critically Polluted Areas` by SHRI C.R. PATIL, Hon`ble Member of Parliament

(a) Yes sir.

(b) Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change (MoEF & CC) got a comprehensive environmental assessment of 88 prominent industrial clusters carried out based on the Comprehensive Environmental Pollution Index (CEPI) criteria in 2009. Out of these 88 industrial clusters, 43 industrial clusters with CEPI score 70 and above were identified as critically polluted areas (CPAs). The state-wise list of above 43 critically polluted areas is enclosed as Annexure-I. Six such CPAs namely, Ankleshwar, Vapi, Ahmadabad, Vatva, Bhavnagar, Junagarh are located in Gujarat.

(c)& (d) This Ministry had imposed temporary moratorium on 13.01.2010 on consideration of projects for environmental clearance to be located in the above 43 CPAs. Later, based on inputs regarding action plans prepared by the concerned State pollution Control Boards/Pollution Control Committees (SPCBs/PCCs) for improving the environmental quality in these areas and actions initiated, as also re-assessment of CEPI score done by CPCB of these areas, this Ministry has lifted moratorium from different CPAs time to time subject to certain stipulations. As of now, there is no moratorium in 36 out of 43 CPAs. Seven CPAs which are still under moratorium are Ankleshwar (Gujarat), Chandrapur (Maharashtra), Pali (Rajasthan), Vatva (Gujarat), Vellore (Tamilnadu), Nazafgarh Drain Basin (UT Delhi) and Jodhpur (Rajasthan).

CPCB has been asked to get the re-assessment of CEPI score done in all 43 CPAs taking into account all constituents of index as originally formulated in 2009. Appropriate view in the matter would be taken upon receiving input from CPCB.

(e) There is a comprehensive, legislative, regulatory, institutional and policy framework for mainstreaming sustainability concerns in industrial development and harmonise it with environmental concerns. This framework is regularly re-visited to adapt to changing ground realities and for aligning it with best international practices.