

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3832

ANSWERED ON:16.12.2014

AIR POLLUTION

Shekhawat Shri Gajendra Singh

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

- (a) whether the Government has conducted any survey to assess the outcome of the measures taken to control air pollution in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the details of the standards/norms to determine the quality of air as laid down by the World Health Organization(WHO); and
- (d) the steps being taken by the Government to achieve the standards/norms laid down by the WHO in the country?

Answer

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

(a) & (b). The ambient air quality is regularly monitored by the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) in association with various State Pollution Control Boards (SPCBs) / Pollution Control Committees (PCCs) for UTs and NEERI under National Air Monitoring Programme (NAMP) in respect of Sulphur Dioxide (SO₂), Nitrogen Dioxide (NO₂) and Particulate Matter less than or equal to 10 micron (PM₁₀). As on 30th September 2014, a total of 580 stations are operated in 244 cities, towns and industrial areas covering 28 States and 5 UTs across the country. As per analysis of data for the year 2012 under NAMP, air quality in respect of SO₂ (annual average) exceeded the norms in one town (50 µg/m³). However, annual average levels of NO₂ (40 µg/m³) exceeded in 13 cities and towns whereas, levels of PM₁₀ (annual average - 60 µg/m³) exceeded in 137 cities and towns, out of 175 monitored.

(c) The World Health Organisation (WHO) had published 'Air Quality Guidelines'-2000 for Europe and Global Update-2005. These guidelines are neither standards nor legally binding criteria. However, revised National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS) were developed and notified in consonance with global best practices, WHO guidelines and in keeping with the latest advancements in technology and research.

(d) The Government has taken various measures to achieve the NAAQS-2009 which inter alia includes, supply of cleaner fuels as per Auto Fuel Policy, use of gaseous fuel for public transport in select cities, 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, etc.