GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

MINISTRY OFENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS

RAJYA SABHA

QUESTION NO26.07.2010

ANSWERED ON

INTENSITY OF POLLUTION IN MAJOR CITIES .

29 Smt. Maya Singh

Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :-

(a) the intensity of pollution measured by the existing pollution measuring instruments in Delhi, Mumbai, Bangalore, Kanpur, Hyderabad from the years 2008 to 2010 ;

(b) the quantity of pollution and dust particles in the environment;

(c)whether the measuring instruments are obsolete and if so, by when the state-of-the-art machines would be used;

(d) whether it is a fact that rise in pollution is affecting the environment; and

(e)the details of steps taken so far to purify the air?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) FOR ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS

(SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH)

(a) & (b) The levels of air pollution in terms of Sulphur dioxide (SO2), Nitrogen dioxide (NO2) and dust particles as PM10 (particulate matter having size less than 10 micron) have been monitored in the cities of Delhi, Mumbai, Bangalore, Kanpur, Hyderabad during the years 2008-10 by employing different types of instruments as per the notification on National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS). The ambient air quality during 2008 and 2009 (in microgramme per cubic metre) is:

	2008			2009	
	SO2	NO2	PM10	SO2	NO2	PM10
Delhi	5	45	198	6	49	243
Mumbai	9	42	132	6	42	109
Bangalore	15	40	90	16	40	122
Kanpur	7	23	209	8	31	211
Hyderabad	6	27	87	5	22	80

The monitoring results reveal that the levels of SO2 are within the prescribed norms in all the five cities. The levels of NO2 are within the prescribed limit except in Delhi and Mumbai. However, PM10 levels exceed the prescribed limits in all the five cities.

(c)PM10, SO2 and NO2 in ambient air are being measured manually by using an instrument called Respirable Dust Sampler (RDS) which is not an obsolete instrument and it is being used as per standard notified procedure. Continuous Ambient Air Quality Monitoring Stations (CAAQMS) have also been established at certain locations in all these five cities for real time monitoring.

(d) No definite trend has been observed regarding change in pollution levels in these five cities.

(e) The steps taken for improvement of urban air quality include implementation of mass emission standards for vehicular emission, improvement in fuel quality standards, pollution under control (PUC) certificate system for in-use vehicles, alternate fuel initiatives, measures for better traffic management, bus rapid transport system (BRTS), road infrastructure development for decongestion of traffic and introduction of mass transport in cities.