

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

**LOK SABHA**  
**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 4291**  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 28.03.2017

**Air Pollution in Rural Areas**

4291. DR. VIRENDRA KUMAR:

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

- (a) whether air pollution is going up in rural areas of the country due to expansion of industries;
- (b) if so, whether any study has been conducted regarding the affects of air pollution in the rural areas;
- (c) if so, the details thereof; and
- (d) the steps being taken by the Government to create awareness amongst the common man regarding air pollution in the rural areas?

**ANSWER**

MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) FOR ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE  
(SHRI ANIL MADHAV DAVE)

(a) The air quality in the country is assessed under National Air Quality Monitoring Programme (NAMP) through a network comprising of 680 operating monitoring stations located in 300 cities/towns all across the country. The monitoring network does not cover rural areas in general. However, four ambient air quality monitoring stations have been setup under NAMP in rural areas of Punjab. Air quality data for last four years for these stations is annexed. The trend indicates that values of SO<sub>2</sub> and NO<sub>2</sub> in terms of annual standards were within the National Ambient Air Quality Standard (NAAQS) of 50 µg/m<sup>3</sup> and 40 µg/m<sup>3</sup> and PM<sub>10</sub> exceeded the national standard value of 60 µg/m<sup>3</sup>. However, the data does not indicate specific increase of pollution during the years.

(b) & (c) No specific study has been carried out in recent time by Ministry of Environment Forest and Climate Change regarding effects of air pollution in rural areas.

(d) In order to raise awareness regarding air pollution including in rural areas, Government has launched the National Air Quality Index (AQI). The AQI transforms complex air quality data of various pollutants into single number, nomenclature and colour; for effective communication of air quality status to people in terms, which are easy to understand. There are six AQI categories namely Good, Satisfactory, Moderately Polluted, Poor, Very Poor and Severe. Each of these categories is based on ambient concentration of air pollutants and their likely health impacts. AQI takes into account values of eight pollutants viz. PM<sub>10</sub>, PM<sub>2.5</sub>, Sulphur Dioxide, Nitrogen Dioxide, Lead, Ozone, Carbon Monoxide and Ammonia for which short term (upto 24 hrs) National Ambient Air Quality Standards are prescribed. Based on the measured ambient concentrations of pollutants, AQI is calculated.

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## ANNEXURE

**ANNEXURE REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARA (a) OF THE LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 4291 DUE FOR REPLY ON 28.03.2017 REGARDING 'AIR POLLUTION IN RURAL AREAS' BY DR. VIRENDRA KUMAR, HON'BLE MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT**

### Status of Ambient Air Quality in Rural Areas (Concentration in microgram per cubic meter)

S. No.	Name of the Station	City/Town	No. of stations	2012			2013			2014			2015		
				SO <sub>2</sub>	NO <sub>2</sub>	PM <sub>10</sub>	SO <sub>2</sub>	NO <sub>2</sub>	PM <sub>10</sub>	SO <sub>2</sub>	NO <sub>2</sub>	PM <sub>10</sub>	SO <sub>2</sub>	NO <sub>2</sub>	PM <sub>10</sub>
1	GurudwaraGangsar Sahib	Sangrur	1	-	22	165	-	15	97	4	12	88	5	13	100
2	Basti/Guru Ki Dhaab	Faridkot	1	-	12	122	6	14	92	4	12	74	5	13	90
3	Govt. School	Rasulpur	1	-	17	31	7	14	68	7	12	55	7	13	73
4	Govt. School Village	Mukundpur/Hosiarpur	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	7	14	55	6	13	72

*NB. '-' data not received, NAAQS of 50 µg/m<sup>3</sup> for SO<sub>2</sub>, 40 µg/m<sup>3</sup> for NO<sub>2</sub>, µg/m<sup>3</sup> for PM<sub>10</sub>, for Residential/ industrial / other area & 20 µg/m<sup>3</sup> for SO<sub>2</sub>, µg/m<sup>3</sup> for NO<sub>2</sub>, and 60 µg/m<sup>3</sup> for PM<sub>10</sub> for Ecologically sensitive area. The data furnished in the table is as available on date.*