

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

**LOK SABHA**  
**UN-STARRED QUESTION NO 3558**  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 08.08.2017

**Level of Pollution**

3558. SHRI MANOJ TIWARI:

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

- (a) whether the level of pollution in the country is increasing more rapidly than that of other countries in the world;
- (b) if so, the details thereof along with the report of the WHO in this regard;
- (c) whether the *ocimum tenuiflorum* plants have the potential to improve the deteriorating air quality; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof and the reaction of the Government thereto?

**ANSWER**

MINISTER FOR ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

(DR. HARSH VARDHAN)

(a) & (b) The methodology for assessment of pollution in various parts of world is not same. Countries can be ranked on the basis of different criteria pollutants with different results. As such it is difficult to compare different countries since they differ in their various characteristics. An ambient air pollution database released by the World Health Organisation (WHO) in 2016 indicates level of pollution in cities across the world in respect of PM<sub>10</sub> / PM<sub>2.5</sub> (particulate matter) which is based on extrapolation of data and based on conversion factors. Data of few years are required to show increasing or decreasing trend of pollution level. Therefore, care has to be exercised before drawing any inference.

(c) & (d) This Ministry has not carried out any study of the potential of *Ocimum Tenuiflorum* plants to improve the deteriorating air quality.

\*\*\*\*\*