GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION N0. 165
TO BE ANSWERED ON 15.12.2017

Air Quality

165. SHRI S.R. VIJAYAKUMAR:
DR. SHASHI THAROOR:
SHRIMATI VANAROJA R.:
SHRI ASHOK SHANKARRAO CHAVAN:
SHRI T. RADHAKRISHNAN:
SHRI NARANBHAI KACHHADIYA:
SHRI ANURAG SINGH THAKUR:
KUNWAR HARIBANSH SINGH.
SHRI BIDYUT BARAN MAHATO:
SHRI SUDHEER GUPTA:
SHRI GAJANAN KIRTIKAR:

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

(a) whether the Government is aware that the Indian air quality standard limits the safe exposure for Particulate Matter (PM) 2.5 upto 40 $\mu g/m^3$ and a recent new study on global air pollution by the US based institutes claims that the India's worsening pollution level including air pollution caused millions of premature deaths in 2015;

(b) if so, the details thereof along with the details of the cities in the country that are currently exposed to beyond 40 $\mu g/m^3$ of PM 2.5 concentrations; and

(c) the measures taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to bring the PM 2.5 concentration to the Indian air quality standard limits in order to reduce air pollution related diseases and to check various types of pollution in the country?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE
(DR. MAHESH SHARMA)

(a) Air Quality Standards in India are defined by National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS) which lays down permissible limits with respect to twelvepollutants including PM2.5. The report entitled 'State of Global Air 2017' prepared by US based institutes referred to deaths in India and China due to long term exposure to PM 2.5 in 2015. However the numbers are not validated for Indian conditions and there are no conclusive data available to establish direct correlation of death exclusively with air pollution. Air pollution is one of the triggering factors for respiratory associated ailments and diseases and it is acknowledged that higher the

level of air pollution higher is the risk to lungs in a given area. Further, the levels of PM2.5 are derived from PM10 levels in the report which may vary for each monitoring site and hence may not be amenable to generalization.

(b) Central Pollution Control Board is monitoring ambient air quality in 691 locations covering 303 cities/towns in 29 States and 6 Union Territories across the country under National Air Quality Monitoring Programme (NAMP). Out of 303 cities, $PM_{2.5}$ is being monitored in 79 cities and 31 cities exceeded the $PM_{2.5}$of 40 $\mu g/m^3$. The list of these cities is given in **Annexure.**

(c) The Government has taken several steps to address air pollution which *inter alia,* include notification of National Ambient Air Quality Standards; setting up of monitoring network for assessment of ambient air quality; introduction of cleaner / alternate fuels like gaseous fuel (CNG, LPG etc.), ethanol blending, launching of National Air Quality index; universalization of BS-IV by 2017; leapfrogging from BS-IV to BS-VI fuel standards by 1st April, 2020; notification of Construction and Demolition Waste Management Rules; banning of burning of biomass; promotion of public transport network; Pollution Under Control Certificate; issuance of directions under Section 18(1)(b) of Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1981 and under Section 5 of Environment (Protection) Act, 1986; installation of on-line continuous (24x7) monitoring devices by major industries; collection of Environmental Protection Charge on more than 2000 CC diesel vehicles; notification of graded response action plan for Delhi and NCR etc.

***

ANNEXURE

Citiesexceeding NAAQS of 40 µg/m^{3}with respect to PM2.5 (annual average in descending order) during 2016

Sl No.	State	City	PM2.5 Annual average (µg/m3)
1.	Chandigarh	Chandigarh	123
2.	Delhi	Delhi	118
3.	West Bengal	Asansol	88
4.	West Bengal	Durgapur	74
5.	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	Silvassa	73
6.	West Bengal	Kolkata	70
7.	Goa	Panaji (Tiswadi)	70
8.	Daman & Diu	Daman	68
9.	West Bengal	Howrah	67
10.	Goa	Vasco (Mormugao)	67
11.	West Bengal	Barrackpore	59
12.	Karnataka	Gulburga	59
13.	Telangana	Hydrabad	58
14.	Madhya Pradesh	Indore	53
15.	Madhya Pradesh	Gwalior	52
16.	Madhya Pradesh	Chhindwara	52
17.	Karnataka	Bangalore	51

18.	Odisha	Sambalpur	51
19.	Odisha	Talcher	51
20.	Odisha	Jharsuguda	48
21.	Odisha	Balasore	47
22.	Odisha	Kalinga Nagar	46
23.	Goa	Mormugao (Mormugao)	44
24.	Madhya Pradesh	Katni	44
25.	Madhya Pradesh	Ujjain	43
26.	Madhya Pradesh	Singrauli	42
27.	Madhya Pradesh	Prithampur	42
28.	West Bengal	Haldia	42
29.	Odisha	Cuttack	42
30.	Odisha	Konark	41
31.	Odisha	Paradeep	41