

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

LOK SABHA
UN-STARRED QUESTION NO. 593
TO BE ANSWERED ON 20.07.2018

Air Pollution Incidents

593. SHRI CH. MALLA REDDY:

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

- (a) whether the Government has held meeting with expert agencies to discuss application of advanced technologies to deal with air pollution incidents and improve the overall air quality management framework and if so, the details thereof;
- (b) whether the Government plans to use satellite-based Aerosol Optical Depth (AOD) data for estimating ground based PM_{2.5} levels, establishing early warning system and dissemination protocol to inform public and enforcing agencies about episodic high pollution events in advance and if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government plans setting up a system for certification of air quality emission monitoring instruments to provide a boost to local manufacturing of air quality monitoring instruments; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

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

- (a) Meetings have been held by the Ministry of Environment Forest and Climate Change (MoEF&CC) with experts from institutions such as Satellite Application Centre (SAC), Indian Institute of Remote Sensing (IIRS), India Meteorological Department (IMD), Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology (IITM), Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO)-Satellite Application Center (SAC), National Physical Laboratory (NPL), National Environmental Engineering Research Institute (NEERI), IIT Delhi and Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) to discuss application of advanced technologies to deal with air pollution incidents and improve the overall air quality management framework.
- (b) Establishing early warning system and dissemination protocol to inform public and enforcing agencies about episodic high pollution events in advance is amongst the priorities identified for improving management of air pollution. Government has considered various options in this regard, including use of satellite based Aerosol Optical Depth for estimating ground level PM_{2.5} levels.
- (c) & (d) A certification system for air quality monitoring instruments and equipment in the country through CSIR - National Physical Laboratory has been mandated for certification of Online Continuous Emission Monitoring System (OCEMS) and Continuous Ambient Air Quality Monitoring System (CAAQMS).
