

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1989
TO BE ANSWERED ON 21.12.2018

Effects of Pollution on Taj Mahal

1989. SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE:

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

- (a) whether marble of Taj Mahal is getting discolored due to air pollution;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the efforts made by the Government to protect Taj Mahal;
- (c) whether the foundation of Taj Mahal is becoming weak due to polluted water of Yamuna; and
- (d) if so, the corrective measures being taken by the Government in this regard?

ANSWER

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

(a) & (b) According to Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) the pollutants from various sources have been superficially depositing on the marble surface of Taj Mahal as particulate matters. Due to scattering of light by these deposited particles, the marble surface appears to have changed in colour. The ASI has formulated scientific cleaning and conservation plan to protect the surface of Taj Mahal from deposited pollutants. Accordingly, all four minarets, eight facades, four pedestal marble walls, interior portion of periphery up to human height & four Chhatris at roof top of main Mausoleum, has already been cleaned & treated. However, the cleaning of main dome requires some technical studies.

(c) & (d) ASI has informed that the water level of Yamuna is away from the Northern wall of Taj Mahal. Therefore, specific study on the link between Yamuna water and strength of the foundation of Taj Mahal has not been conducted.
