

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2762
TO BE ANSWERED ON 28.12.2018

Protection of Taj Mahal

2762. SHRI BADRUDDIN AJMAL:

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

- (a) whether despite restriction and prohibition by the Supreme Court, the Government is allowing industries in vicinity of Taj Mahal which is leading to rise of pollution levels resulting in great damage to the world heritage monument;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the action plan formulated by the Government to protect beauty and legacy of the Taj Mahal?

ANSWER

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

(a) The Taj Trapezium Zone Pollution (Prevention and Control) Authority, constituted under directions of the Hon'ble Supreme Court, is empowered to take decisions for environmental management of the Taj Trapezium Zone (TTZ) including the decision for granting the permission for setting up of the industries as per rules/norms. The Commissioner, Agra Division is the Chairperson of the Authority. According to the Taj Trapezium Zone Pollution (Prevention and Control) Authority, no permission has been issued to establish/operate air polluting industries in the vicinity of Taj Mahal.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The Archaeological Survey of India (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.

The other measures taken for protecting the natural environment in and around the Taj Mahal inter-alia include, constitution of Taj Trapezium Zone Pollution (Prevention and Control)

Authority and imposition of moratorium on setting up of new industries and expansion of existing industries in Taj Trapezium Zone except white category of industries by the Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change, monitoring of air quality by 08 air quality monitoring stations established by Central Pollution Control Board, Uttar Pradesh Pollution Control Board (UPPCB) & Archaeological Survey of India in and around Taj Mahal and implementation of short term and long term action plan prepared by the UPPCB for improvement in the air quality of Agra etc.
