

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION No. 4348
TO BE ANSWERED ON 19.07.2019

Pollution at Tourist Destinations

4348. SHRI H. VASANTHAKUMAR

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

- (a) whether the Ministry has any data about the pollution at various tourist destinations of national importance, if so, the details thereof;
- (b) whether the pollution is spreading through food/water wastes and emissions which are causing ailments to the people in these areas and if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether several monuments are also losing their beauty due to air/water pollution and if so, the details thereof; and
- (d) whether the Government has taken/ proposes to take any steps to make the tourist places pollution free, if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE
(SHRI BABUL SUPRIYO)

(a) to (c) Among the 38 World Heritage sites located in India which include 30 cultural sites, 07 natural sites and 01 mixed site, the ambient air quality data during 2018 of cities with UNESCO World Heritage Sites is given at **Annexure-I**. Out of 35 cities with UNESCO World Heritage Sites, with respect to SO₂ all cities are within the National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS). With respect to NO₂, 1 city exceeds the NAAQS and with respect to PM₁₀, 26 cities out of 35 cities exceed the NAAQS. With respect to PM_{2.5}, 5 cities out of 24 cities exceed the NAAQS.

Though air pollution is one of the triggering factors for respiratory ailments and associated diseases, there are no conclusive data available in the country to establish direct correlation of death/ disease exclusively due to air pollution.

(d) The Central Government has taken a number of regulatory measures for prevention, control and abatement of air pollution in the country which includes tourist destination of national importance.

Action Plans for Improvement of Air Quality in Delhi NCR:

- (i) Graded Response Action Plan (GRAP) was notified on January 12, 2017, for prevention, control and abatement of air pollution in Delhi and NCR. It identifies graded measures and

implementing agencies for response to four AQI categories, namely, Moderate to Poor, Very Poor, Severe and Severe + or Emergency.

- (ii) The Central Government has notified a Comprehensive Action Plan (CAP) in 2018 identifying timelines and implementing agencies for actions identified for prevention, control and mitigation of air pollution in Delhi and NCR.

Action Plans for Improvement of Air Quality of Other Cities:

- (i) Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change has launched National Clean Air Programme (NCAP) in January 2019 to tackle the problem of air pollution in a comprehensive manner with targets to achieve 20 to 30 % reduction in PM10 and PM2.5 concentrations by 2024 with 2017 as the base year. The overall objective is to augment and evolve effective ambient air quality monitoring network across the country besides ensuring comprehensive management plan for prevention, control and abatement of air pollution and enhancing public awareness and capacity building measures.
- (ii) 102 non-attainment cities have been identified based on ambient air quality data for the period 2011 – 2015 and WHO report 2014/2018. A total of 86 city specific action plans have been approved for ground implementation.

Monitoring

- Setting up of monitoring network for assessment of ambient air quality. Presently, ambient air quality is being monitored at 779 locations covering 339 cities in 29 states & 6 Union Territories across the country under National Air Quality Monitoring Programme (NAMP). Further, real time monitoring is taking place at 170 locations in 102 cities in 18 States/UTs.
- Notification of National Ambient Air Quality Standards.
- Launch of National Air Quality Index.
- Implementation of Air Quality Early Warning System for Delhi in October, 2018 in association with Ministry of Earth Sciences (MoES).

Transport

- Leapfrogging from BS-IV to BS-VI fuel standards since 1st April, 2018 in NCT of Delhi and from by 1st April, 2020 in the rest of the country.
- Introduction of cleaner / alternate fuels like gaseous fuel (CNG, LPG etc.), ethanol blending.
- Promotion of public transport and improvements in roads and building of more bridges to ease congestion on roads.
- Operationalisation of Eastern Peripheral Expressway & Western Peripheral Expressway to divert non-destined traffic from Delhi.
- Streamlining the issuance of Pollution Under Control Certificate.
- Environment Protection Charges (EPC) have been imposed on diesel vehicles with engine capacity of 2000cc and above in Delhi NCR.

Industry

- Badarpur thermal power plant has been closed from 15th October, 2018.
- Notification of stricter emission norms for power plants.
- All brick kilns have been shifted to zig-zag technology in Delhi and NCR.
- Installation of on-line continuous (24x7) monitoring devices all red category industries in Delhi and NCR.
- Revision of emission standards for industrial sectors from time to time.
- Ban on pet coke and furnace oil - monitoring of use of pet coke in Lime Kilns/Cement Kilns and Calcium Carbide Industry in Delhi and NCR States.

Biomass and Solid Waste

- A new Central Sector Scheme on 'Promotion of Agricultural Mechanization for in-situ management of Crop Residue in the States of Punjab, Haryana, Uttar Pradesh and NCT of Delhi' for the period from 2018-19 and 2019-20 has been launched.
- Banning of burning of biomass/garbage.
- 3 Waste-to-Energy (W-t-E) plants are currently operational in Delhi with a total capacity of 5100 Tonnes Per Day (TPD).
- Notifications of 6 waste management rules covering solid waste, plastic waste, e-waste, bio-medical waste, C&D waste and hazardous wastes issued in 2016.

Dust

- Notifications regarding dust mitigation measures for construction and demolition activities.
- Number of mechanised road sweeping machines has been increased significantly and presently 60 machines are deployed for cleaning of roads in Delhi.

Public Outreach

- Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change and Uttar Pradesh, Punjab, Haryana, Rajasthan and Delhi Governments launched Clean Air for Delhi Campaign from 10th – 23rd Feb 2018 and to check air polluting activities pre and post Diwali, a special campaign called "Clean Air Campaign" during November 01, 2018 to November 10, 2018.
- Ministry is promoting people's participation and awareness building among citizens for environmental conservation through Green Goods Deeds that focus on promotion of cycling, saving water and electricity, growing trees, proper maintenance of vehicles, following of lane discipline and reducing congestion on roads by car pooling etc.
- Development of mechanism for redressal of public complaints regarding air pollution issues in Delhi and NCR (through 'Sameer App', 'Emails'(aircomplaints.cpcb@gov.in) and 'Social Media Networks' (Facebook and Twitter) etc.

Annexure – I**Ambient air quality in cities (SO₂, NO₂, PM₁₀) of the country during 2018 in cities with UNESCO World Heritage Site**

Sl. No.	State / UT	Sl. No.	City	Annual average in $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$		
				SO ₂	NO ₂	PM ₁₀
1.	Assam	1.	Golaghat	6	12	56
		2.	Nagaon	7	17	96
2.	Bihar	3.	Gaya	12	21	89
3.	Chandigarh	4.	Chandigarh	2	17	102
4.	Delhi	5.	Delhi*	15	44	243
5.	Goa	6.	Amona	8	12	62
		7.	Assanora	8	13	56
		8.	Bicholim	7	13	70
		9.	Codli	8	12	61
		10.	Cuncolim	11	15	77
		11.	Curchorem	9	13	57
		12.	Honda	8	13	62
		13.	Kundaim	8	14	69
		14.	Mapusa	4	7	73
		15.	Margao	7	13	57
		16.	Mormugao	5	11	101
		17.	Panaji	6	12	68
		18.	Ponda	8	13	93
		19.	Sanguem	9	13	61
		20.	Tilamol	9	14	81
		21.	Tuem	8	13	54
		22.	Usgao	7	13	59
		23.	Vasco	5	11	83
6.	Gujarat	24.	Ahmedabad	16	29	236
7.	Himachal Pradesh	25.	Shimla	4	26	60
8.	Maharashtra	26.	Aurangabad	13	35	70
		27.	Mumbai	2	21	166
9.	Odisha	28.	Konark	2	12	79
10.	Rajasthan	29.	Bharatpur	7	25	201
		30.	Jaipur	8	32	165
11.	Sikkim	31.	Chungthang	6	5	29
12.	Tamilnadu	32.	Coimbatore	6	23	54
13.	Uttar Pradesh	33.	Agra	4	22	209
14.	West Bengal	34.	Jalpaiguri	2	16	64
		35.	Siliguri	2	17	72

Ambient air quality (PM_{2.5}) in cities during 2018 in cities with UNESCO World Heritage Site

SL. No.	State	Sl. No.	City	Average of PM _{2.5} Annual average (µg/m ³)
1.	Chandigarh	1.	Chandigarh	50
2.	Delhi	2.	Delhi*	115
3.	Goa	3.	Amona	20
		4.	Assanora	18
		5.	Bicholim	23
		6.	Codli	20
		7.	Cuncolim	42
		8.	Curchorem	32
		9.	Honda	20
		10.	Kundaim	22
		11.	Margao	18
		12.	Mormugao	38
		13.	Panaji	8
		14.	Ponda	29
		15.	Sanguem	31
		16.	Tilamol	44
		17.	Tuem	17
		18.	Usgao	19
		19.	Vasco	60
4.	Gujarat	20.	Ahmedabad	73
5.	Himachal Pradesh	21.	Shimla	33
6.	Tamilnadu	22.	Coimbatore	32
7.	Uttar Pradesh	23.	Agra	106
8.	West Bengal	24.	Siliguri	35

NB. *CAAQMS data