

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

**LOK SABHA**  
**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1783**  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 08.03.2016

**Monitoring of Air Pollution**

1783. SHRI GAURAV GOGOI:

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

- (a) whether the Government has specified a time-frame within which air quality index would be made operational in all cities of the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government has any mechanism to ensure that air quality monitoring centres have sufficient data on air pollution;
- (d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor;
- (e) whether the Government has taken steps to strengthen the monitoring infrastructure for such centres; and
- (f) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

**ANSWER**

MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) FOR ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE  
(SHRI PRAKASH JAVADEKAR)

(a) & (b) At present, the Air Quality Index (AQI) is being implemented in 23 cities in the country. Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) has targeted all 46 million plus cities and 20 state capitals for operationalising AQI by the end of 2018. The AQI has been launched by Hon'ble Prime Minister on April 06, 2015. It is a tool loaded in the web portal of Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) for public information on the status of ambient air quality of selected cities considering eight pollutants i.e. Sulphur Dioxide, Nitrogen Dioxide, Lead, Ozone, PM<sub>10</sub>, PM<sub>2.5</sub>, Carbon Monoxide and Ammonia for short term (upto 24 hourly) norms as prescribed in the National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS-2009). The National AQI is a significant tool helping the country in Decision Supporting System as a part of e-Governance measures.

(c) to (f) Air Quality Index is a web-based system designed to provide status of Ambient Air Quality monitored through the network of CAAQMS set up by CPCB and SPCBs. The expansion and strengthening of CAAQMS is ongoing process. Presently, 23 cities covering 41 stations are connected to the continuous AQI network. They are Agra, Ahmadabad, Bangaluru, Chandrapur, Chennai, Delhi, Faridabad, Gaya, Gurgaon, Haldia, Hyderabad, Jaipur, Jodhpur, Kanpur, Lucknow, Mumbai, Muzaffarpur, Navi Mumbai, Panchkula, Patna, Pune, Solapur and Varanasi. According to CPCB, an amount of ₹ 9, 01, 21, 917 has been released to State and UT Governments including metropolitan cities for strengthening air quality monitoring under National Air Quality Monitoring Programme during 2015-16 (till January, 2016).

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