

AIR QUALITY INDEX OF DELHI AND INDIAN STATE CAPITALS

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RSQ 1609

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

- (a) air quality index of Delhi, Indian State Capitals, Amritsar and Taj Mahal from latest record, indicating the safe limit of cities for human and cities considered unsafe for human;
- (b) whether Government official data agree with the data provided by non-Government agencies in India and outside India, if not, how can the public know which data is to be relied on and which is to be discarded;
- (c) the major pollutants in the respective cities; and
- (d) whether present air pollution level at the Taj Mahal area is safe for human, if not, the reasons therefor and Government's plan of action for it?

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

(a)& (b). The ambient air quality is monitored by various State Pollution Control Boards (SPCBs)/ Pollution Control Committees (PCCs) for UTs, NEERI and Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) across the country under National Air Monitoring Programme (NAMP). The data so received is collected, compiled and analysed as per national standards and disseminated by the CPCB. CPCB has developed a concept of Air Quality Index (AQI) to inform the public on the status of air quality which is loaded on the CPCB website for comments. CPCB has undertaken the task of finalizing AQI.

The data would be in close resemblance, if methods of monitoring and analysis of data for a particular location at the same time is done as per National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS). It may be difficult to comment on the data of agencies other than CPCB and SPCBs/ PCCs. The data of CPCB, SPCBs / PCCs may be relied upon.

(c) Under NAMP, Sulphur Dioxide (SO₂), Nitrogen Dioxide (NO₂) and Particulate matter having size equal to or, less than 10 micron (PM₁₀) are monitored as primary pollutants across the country.

(d) The levels of SO₂ and NO₂ (annual averages) are reported to be within notified norms during 2002-2013 in Agra. Data for the year 2014 is yet to be processed. The levels of PM₁₀ have exceeded the norms (annual averages of 60 µg/m³). There is a fluctuating trend for SO₂, NO₂ and PM₁₀. High level of pollution may aggravate / increase the risk of many respiratory ailments and cardiovascular disease but, it not the only cause.