

Environmental clearance of category B projects

1418. SHRI NATUJI HALAJI THAKOR: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government intends to return power of environment clearance of category B projects in critically polluted area to the respective State Level Expert Appraisal Committee (SEAC)/State Level Environment Impact Assessment Authority (SEIAA);

(b) if so, the details of time-frame set in this regard; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRIMATI JAYANTHI NATARAJAN): (a) to (c) Under the Environment Impact Assessment (EIA) Notification, 2006, Ministry of Environment and Forests, Govt. of India has delegated the powers to the respective State Environment Impact Assessment Authority (SEIAA) and State Expert Appraisal Committee (SEAC) for grant of environmental clearance in respect of category B project. However, as per general condition stipulated in the EIA Notification, 2006, any project or activity specified in Category 'B' will be treated as Category 'A' if located in whole or in part within 10 Km from the boundary of critically polluted areas as notified by the Central Pollution Control Board from time to time.

Installation of Uniform Air Quality Information System in Delhi

1419. SHRI MOHAMMED ADEEB: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to install Uniform Air Quality Information System in Delhi as per the directions of Supreme Court;

(b) if so, by when;

(c) whether there is any proposal of installing this system in the big cities throughout the country;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRIMATI JAYANTHI NATARAJAN): (a) to (e) The ambient air quality is being monitored across the country under the National Air Monitoring Programme (NAMP) since 1984-85. Three pollutants, namely, Sulphur Dioxide (SO₂), Nitrogen Dioxide (NO₂) and PM₁₀ (particulate matter having size less than 10 micron) are monitored at all stations while other nine pollutants (PM_{2.5}, O₃, CO, NH₃, C₆H₆, BaP, Pb, Ni and As) at select locations as per revised National Ambient Air Quality Standards (2009). There are 510 operating air quality monitoring stations under NAMP covering 211 cities, towns and industrial areas in 26 States and 5 Union Territories as on 29.02.2012.