

(PCCs) for UTs and National Environmental Engineering Research Institute (NEERI) at 580 manual station in 244 cities, towns and industrial areas in respect of Sulphur Dioxide (SO<sub>2</sub>), Nitrogen Dioxide (NO<sub>2</sub>) and Particulate Matter less than or equal to 10 micron (PM<sub>10</sub>) apart from real time monitoring in 16 cities.

The CPCB has undertaken a task of introduction of Air Quality Index (AQI), a tool for public information on the status of ambient air quality. The AQI has been loaded on the website of CPCB for suggestion and comments of public. It is not possible to indicate timeframe to formalise AQI.

#### **Revision of Comprehensive Environmental Pollution Index**

491. SHRI DEREK O'BRIEN: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT, FORESTS AND CLIMATE CHANGE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of projects that have been cleared in the eight critically polluted industrial belts (as identified by the CEPI index), since the lifting of the moratorium on the expansion in polluted industrial zones;

(b) the expected timeline of the revision of the Comprehensive Environmental Pollution Index (CEPI); and

(c) the safeguards that have been put in place to ensure that no deterioration takes place in critically polluted areas in such time as the index is revised?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FORESTS AND CLIMATE CHANGE (SHRI PRAKASH JAVADEKAR): (a) Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change (MoEF & CC) had imposed temporary moratorium on 13.01.2010 on consideration of projects for environmental clearance to be located in 43 Critically Polluted Areas (CPAs), identified by Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB). Later, based on inputs received from CPCB regarding action plans prepared by the concerned State pollution Control Boards/Pollution Control Committees (SPCBs/ PCCs) for improving the environmental quality in these areas and actions initiated, as also re-assessment of CEPI score done by CPCB of these areas, this Ministry has lifted moratorium from different CPAs time to time subject to certain stipulations.

This Ministry has issued an Office Memorandum (OM) on 10th June, 2014 for consideration of environmental clearance based on CEPI Index and allowing projects / activities in Critically Polluted Areas (CPAs) under moratorium keeping in abeyance OM dated 17th September, 2014 with respect to re-imposition of moratorium in eight CPAs

namely Ghaziabad (UP), Indore (M.P.), Jharsuguda (Orissa), Ludhiana (Punjab), Panipat (Haryana), Patancheru - Bolaram (A.P.), Singrauli (UP & MP) and Vapi (Gujarat).

In compliance to aforesaid OM dated 10th June, 2014, this Ministry has granted environmental clearance to two (02) projects namely i) Bina and ii) Krishnashila under Coal Mining Sectors only.

(b) and (c) CPCB has constituted Working Group and a Technical Review Committee to look issues relating to calculation of Comprehensive Environmental Pollution Index (CEPI) Scores and others technical matters. The Technical Review Committee is overseeing action plans in 43 critically polluted industrial clusters. Following actions are in progress in Critically Polluted Areas, to ensure that no deterioration takes place:-

- (i) Remedial Action Plans have been formulated by concerned SPCBs of 43 CPAs to improve the environmental quality and are currently at various stages of implementation.
- (ii) Chairman CPCB requested all the Chief Secretaries of States in which CPAs are located to constitute State level Committees under the chairmanship of Chief Secretary to ensure regular review of implementation of Action Plans, thereby preventing the degradation of environmental quality of the CPAs.
- (iii) 'Technical Review Committee' comprising of national level experts will also be held to review the implementation of Action Plans formulated for each of the 43 CPAs.
- (iv) MoEF & CC *vide* O. M. dated September 17, 2013 directed CPCB to undertake environmental quality monitoring in CPAs through a third party on biennial basis (once in 2 years) for computing CEPI. Accordingly, environmental quality monitoring in 10 CPAs namely, Ankleshwar, Ghaziabad, Indore, Jharsuguda, Ludhiana, Panipat, Patancheru – Bollaram, Singrauli, Vatva and Vapi was undertaken by CPCB during 2013-14 and rest polluted industrial areas will be covered in 2014-15.

#### **Regularization of area occupied by aboriginals**

†492. SHRI ASHK ALI TAK: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT, FORESTS AND CLIMATE CHANGE be pleased to state:

- (a) the area of forest cover inhabited by the aboriginals in the State of Rajasthan, the details thereof;

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.