by the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB), towns/cities having population between 50,000-99,000 are classified as two-tier cities. The ambient air quality is monitored by concerned State Pollution Control Boards (SPCBs) in two-tier cities under National Air Monitoring Programme (NAMP) coordinated by CPCB and at present NAMP network covers 68 two-tier cities /towns. As per analysis of air quality data for said 68 two-tier cities for the year 2012, the levels of Sulphur Dioxide (SO_2) were within norms (annual averages), levels of Nitrogen Dioxide (NO_2) exceeded the norms (annual averages of $40\mu g/m^3$) in one city only namely, Saraikala (Kharsawan), Jharkhand whereas, the levels of Particulate Matter(PM_{10}) have exceeded in 48 cities.

The Government has taken various measures to contain air pollution in the country, which *inter-alia* include, supply of cleaner fuels as per Auto Fuel Policy, Pollution Under Control (PUC) certificate system for in-use vehicles, stringent source specific emission standards for air polluting industries, use of beneficiated coal in thermal power plants, strengthening public transport, implementation of revised emission norms for gensets and cement plants, etc.

The actions to address the challenges posed by pollution are inter-ministerial in nature and involves various organs of the Government at Central as well as State level including local-self governments. It may not be possible to estimate the expenditure made or anticipated on various actions in this regard.

Due to various steps taken, there is a reduction in levels of Sulphur Dioxide (SO_2) and Lead in ambient air and levels of SO_2 and Lead are within notified norms (annual averages) across the country. There is a rise in compliance of environmental standards in 17 categories of highly polluting industries.

Specific areas under skill development programme

*165. DR. K. V. P. RAMACHANDRA RAO : Will the Minister of SKILL DEVELOPMENT AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP be pleased to state:

(a)   the specific areas that are getting focus under skill development programme;

(b)   whether Government is considering to upgrade the existing institutions as it is;

(c)   whether there are any targets fixed under the programme, if so, the details thereof, State-wise and the progress achieved thus far; and

(d)   whether Government run the skill development programmes on PPP model, if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SKILL DEVELOPMENT AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY) : (a) to (d) The National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC) has got a skill gap study conducted to access the skill gap across sector and geography. The effort of Government is to align skill development initiatives with the skill gap findings. Further, Sector Skill Councils (SSCs) have been constituted for various sectors to bring in industry participation in the skilling process.

The Government is presently reviewing for National Policy for Skill Development and Entrepreneurship, 2009 in order to lay down the future road map for skilling in the country. National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC) has been mandated to create skill development capacity in private domain in order to scale up the skill development efforts. The National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC) itself has been formed in Public Private Partnership (PPP) format.

At present, there are over 70 skill development schemes across various sectors being implemented by over 20 Central Ministries/Departments. The targets fixed under these schemes and achievements made are as under:-

(Figures in lakhs)

Financial Year	Skilling Target for India	Persons skilled
2011-12	46.53	45.58
2012-13	72.51	51.88
2013-14	73.42	76.37
2014-15 (upto January, 2015)	105.07	49.77

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO UNSTARRED QUESTIONS

Augmenting the capacity of IRE Plant, Kerala

1601. SHRI K.N. BALAGOPAL : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a)   whether Government has any scheme to improve the functioning and augment the capacity of Indian Rare Earth (IRE) Plant, Chavara in Kerala, if so, the details thereof;