

Indian Standards (BIS), Building Materials & Technology Promotion Council (BMTPC) and Housing and Urban Development Corporation (HUDCO) etc. for the design and construction of earthquake resistant structures to minimize the loss of life and damage to property caused by earthquakes. These guidelines are in wide circulation amongst the public and the administrative authorities responsible for the design and construction of earthquake resistant structures in earthquake prone areas.

**Plan to set up a polar research collaboration centre**

1608. PROF. M. V. RAJEEV GOWDA : Will the Minister of EARTH SCIENCES be pleased to state:

- (a) whether there is a plan to set up a polar research collaboration centre with Norway, if so, the details thereof;
- (b) the major decisions in that aspect with regard to India's geo-political agenda; and
- (c) the estimated date for the project launch?

THE MINISTER OF EARTH SCIENCES (DR. HARSH VARDHAN) : (a) No Sir. There is however, a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between the Norwegian Polar Institute (NPI), Tromso and the ESSO-National Centre for Antarctic and Ocean Research (NCAOR), the Goa-based R&D Institution of the Ministry of Earth Sciences, for long-term collaboration in the areas of scientific research and logistics operations in the polar (Arctic and Antarctic) realm. Since 2008, India, under the aegis of ESSO-MoES is also maintaining a research base "Himdari" at Ny-Ålesund in the Svalbard archipelago of the Arctic.

(b) The scientific Agenda for polar research collaborations between India and Norway is primarily aimed at understanding the global climate change, with emphasis on the linkage between the polar climate variability and the Indian monsoon.

(c) Does not arise.

**Air quality index of Delhi and Indian State capitals**

1609. SHRI RONALD SAPA TLAU : 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?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FORESTS AND CLIMATE CHANGE (SHRI PRAKASH JAVADEKAR) : (a) and (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 ( $\text{SO}_2$ ), Nitrogen Dioxide ( $\text{NO}_2$ ) and Particulate matter having size equal to or, less than 10 micron ( $\text{PM}_{10}$ ) are monitored as primary pollutants across the country.

(d) The levels of  $\text{SO}_2$  and  $\text{NO}_2$  (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  $\text{PM}_{10}$  have exceeded the norms (annual averages of  $60 \mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ ). There is a fluctuating trend for  $\text{SO}_2$ ,  $\text{NO}_2$  and  $\text{PM}_{10}$ . High level of pollution may aggravate / increase the risk of many respiratory ailments and cardiovascular disease but, it not the only cause.

#### **Treatment of effluents by industrial units**

1610. SHRIMATI RAJANI PATIL:

SHRI PRAMOD TIWARI:

SHRI P. BHATTACHARYA:

SHRI DARSHAN SINGH YADAV:

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