

such as MyGov, Vikaspedia, Website of Ministry of Women and Child Development, Facebook, Youtube, etc. for awareness creation.

(c) The Scheme is being implemented through the State/UT Governments. The State/UT Governments may involve local Non Governmental Organizations (NGOs), Community Based Organizations (CBOs), Civil Society Groups, and Women's Organizations working on the issue of Gender, Child Sex Ratio, and Education for implementation of the Scheme.

Introduction of air quality law

*114. SHRI JESUDASU SEELAM: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government plans to introduce an Air Quality Law in order to ensure a coordinated policy implemented by the Central/State Governments;

(b) whether Government monitors concentration of air pollutants based on data from individual States;

(c) the details of pollutants which are above the National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS) and action plan that involves coordination with State Governments, to bring them down to permissible limits, State-wise; and

(d) whether Government has envisioned a timeline to improve the quality of air by reducing air pollutants by enforcing regulations on polluters, if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE (SHRI PRAKASH JAVADEKAR): (a) The Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1981 and the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 being administered by various authorities at Centre and State level provide the necessary legal basis for coordinated policy implementation by the Central/State Governments with respect to air quality. Government does not plan to introduce another air quality law.

(b) The ambient air quality is monitored by various State Pollution Control Boards (SPCBs) and Pollution Control Committees (PCCs) for UTs, Central Pollution Control Boards and NEERI at 593 locations in 249 cities, towns and industrial areas in 28 States and 5 UTs, as on 30.06.2015 under National Air Monitoring Programme (NAMP). The parameters being regularly monitored are SO₂, NO₂ and PM₁₀ under NAMP. As per analysis of data for the year 2011, 2012 and 2013, the levels of SO₂ (annual averages) have exceeded only in one city during 2012, whereas for

NO₂ (annual averages) exceeded in 24, 12, and 11 cities, respectively. Because of geo-climatic conditions, proximity to *Thar* desert, dust in ambient air remains high in Northern India so, levels of PM₁₀ (annual averages) have been exceeded in 148, 137 and 152 cities.

(c) To minimize the impact of air pollution from the particulate matter at national level, Government has *inter-alia* taken the following actions:

- Notification of National Ambient Air Quality Standards 2009, envisaging 12 pollutants;
- Formulation of regulations/statutes to address the rising levels of air pollution in the country;
- Setting up of monitoring network (NAMP) for assessment of ambient air quality;
- Execution of source apportionment studies in six cities and formulation of action plans for air quality in cities;
- Introduction of cleaner/alternate fuel like CNG, LPG etc. and promotion of public transport network including Metro; and
- Creation of infrastructure for industrial pollution control incorporating cleaner production processes, setting up of common dispose facilities for municipal, bio-medical and hazardous waste.

(d) Taking into account gravity of pollution, following further measures have been taken:

- National Air Quality Index launched by Hon'ble Prime Minister in April, 2015 starting with 10 cities;
- Clean India Mission (Swatch Bharat Abhiyan);
- Implementation of Bharat Stage IV norms extended to 63 selected cities and Bharat Stage III norms in rest of the country;
- Banning of burning of leaves/biomass in Delhi;
- Revision of rules pertaining to construction and demolition waste taken up;
- Revision of rules for handling and management of municipal waste taken up;
- Regular co-ordination meetings held at Senior Officers and Ministerial level with Delhi and other State Governments within the National Capital Region (NCR) on 6th April, 13th April and on 24th July, 2015 to control air pollution in NCR adopting air-shed approach;
- Short-term plan reviewed and long-term plans formulated by respective States to mitigate pollution in NCR;

- CPCB wrote to respective State Governments for formulating action plans for mitigation of air pollution for 95 non-attainment cities;
- Construction of Eastern and Western Expressways for by-passing non-destined traffic to Delhi given high priority for completion;
- Stringent industrial emission standards formulated and notified for public/stakeholders comments;
- Making stringent provision for ash content in Coal for thermal power plants; and
- Out of 2800 major industries, 920 industries have installed on-line continuous (24x7) monitoring devices; others are in process of installing.

The steps needed to curb air pollution are multi-sectoral in nature and require active involvement of various organs of the Government including local bodies along with the cooperation of people at large. It is therefore not possible to give a timeline for achieving the 2009 standards. However, due to proactive steps taken by Government, improvement in air quality is expected in near future.

Grants to foreign universities/institutions

*115. SHRI RITABRATA BANERJEE: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has been giving grants to foreign universities/institutions for setting up of Chairs and fellowships;

(b) if so, the details of such Chairs, fellowships, year-wise, institution-wise awarded to such institutions in the United States of America (USA) from the year, 2012 till date; and

(c) whether Government has monitored utilization of these grants by the institutions for the purpose which it was disbursed, if so, the details of the outcome, and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ):

(a) Yes, Sir. The Government has been giving grants to foreign universities/institutions for setting up of Chairs and fellowships.

(b) Three universities/institutions in the United States of America (USA) have received such grants, namely, Satyajit Ray Film and Study Centre, University of California, Santa Cruz; Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, Washington, D.C.; and the University of Chicago. The details are given in the Statement (*See below*).