

WHO survey of polluted cities

2765. SHRI B. K. HARIPRASAD: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Indian cities are among the world's twenty most toxic cities, according to data from the World Health Organisation (WHO); and

(b) if so, the details about the cities and action taken for the same especially for the most populous cities in the list?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE (DR. MAHESH SHARMA): (a) and (b) The World Health Organization (WHO) released the WHO Global Ambient Air Quality Database (update 2018) which consists mainly of urban air quality data annual means for PM₁₀ and/or PM_{2.5}. Arranging WHO database for PM_{2.5} measures in descending order, 14 cities of India namely Kanpur, Faridabad, Gaya, Varanasi, Patna, Delhi, Lucknow, Agra, Gurugram, Muzaffarpur, Srinagar, Jaipur, Patiala and Jodhpur has been listed among 20 most polluted cities of the world. On the basis of available monitoring data, 102 non-attainment cities have been identified for undertaking air pollution mitigation actions under the National Clean Air Programme (NCAP). Twelve (12) of these 14 cities included in this WHO database is part of these 102 non-attainment cities for formulation and implementation of city specification plans under NCAP. The other two cities, Gurugram and Faridabad, being part of the Delhi NCR area are already covered under the various interventions for mitigation of air pollution for this region.

Poaching of animals

2766. SHRI HISHEY LACHUNGPA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE be pleased to state:

(a) details of animal poaching incidents in various parts of the country, State-wise;

(b) whether Government proposes to further strengthen the anti-poaching law and take other necessary steps to minimize animal poaching in the country;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?