

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?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE (DR. MAHESH SHARMA): (a) Details of animal poaching incidents in various parts of the country are not collated in the Ministry. However, cases as reported and made available to Wildlife Crime Control Bureau for the last year by the State Enforcement Agencies are given in Statement (*See* below).

(b) to (d) The important steps taken by the Government to control/minimize poaching of animals in the country are as follows:-

- (i) Legal protection has been provided to wild animals against hunting and commercial exploitation under the provisions of the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972.
- (ii) Endangered species of animals including Tiger, Elephants, Lion, Rhino, etc. are listed under Schedule -I of the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972 thereby according them highest degree of protection.
- (iii) The Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972, provides for stringent, punishments for wildlife offences. The Act also provides for forfeiture of any equipment, vehicle or weapon that is used for committing wildlife offence(s).
- (iv) The Wildlife Crime Control Bureau has been set up to strengthen the enforcement of law for control of poaching and illegal trade in wildlife and its products, by coordinating with the States and also with border and trans border authorities.
- (v) Protected Areas, *viz.*, National Parks, Sanctuaries, Conservation Reserves and Community Reserves covering important wildlife habitats have been created all over the country under the provisions of the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972 to conserve wild animals and their habitats.
- (vi) Financial and technical assistance is provided to the State/Union Territory Governments under the Centrally Sponsored Schemes of 'Integrated Development of Wildlife Habitats', 'Project Tiger' and 'Project Elephant' for providing better protection to wildlife and improvement of its habitat.
- (vii) The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) has been empowered under the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972 to apprehend and prosecute wildlife offenders.

Statement***Animal Poaching/Illegal Wildlife Trade Cases reported by State Agencies to
Wildlife Crime Control Bureau***

Sl. No.	States	Year 2018
1.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	NA
2.	Andhra Pradesh	10
3.	Arunachal Pradesh	NA
4.	Assam	28
5.	Bihar	NA
6.	Chandigarh	NA
7.	Chhattisgarh	27
8.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	NA
9.	Daman and Diu	NA
10.	Delhi	NA
11.	Goa	NA
12.	Gujarat	17
13.	Haryana	NA
14.	Himachal Pradesh	11
15.	Jammu and Kashmir	NA
16.	Jharkhand	NA
17.	Karnataka	7
18.	Kerala	16
19.	Lakshadweep	NA
20.	Madhya Pradesh	7
21.	Maharashtra	14
22.	Manipur	NA
23.	Meghalaya	NA
24.	Mizoram	1
25.	Nagaland	1

Sl. No.	States	Year 2018
26.	Odisha	NA
27.	Puducherry	NA
28.	Punjab	17
29.	Rajasthan	1
30.	Sikkim	NA
31.	Tamil Nadu	1
32.	Telangana	3
33.	Tripura	NA
34.	Uttar Pradesh	30
35.	Uttarakhand	16
36.	West Bengal	NA

NA- Not available.

Steps to prevent occurrence of forest fires

2767. SHRI HISHEY LACHUNGPA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE be pleased to state:

- (a) details of forest fire incidents occurring in different parts of the country in the last three years;
- (b) whether any steps are being planned by Government to prevent the occurrence of forest fires in different parts of the country;
- (c) if so, the details thereof; and
- (d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE (DR. MAHESH SHARMA): (a) Forest Fire occurs every year during summer due to various natural and anthropogenic reasons including accumulation of inflammable materials such as dry leaves, twigs, pine needles etc. Forest Survey of India (FSI), Dehradun, disseminates the satellite based forest fire alerts to the State Forest Departments and other registered users whenever forest fires are detected. The data regarding forest fire incidents occurring in different parts of the country is not maintained in this Ministry. However, the details of forest fire alerts issued to all State/