

1	2	3	4	5	6
Jammu and Kashmir	Srinagar	169	113	-	-
Punjab	Patiala	184	101	101	-
Bihar	Patna	266	144	156	-
Uttar Pradesh	Varanasi	260	146	244	-

*Note:* '-' Data not available, National Ambient Air Quality Standard (NAAQS) for Residential, Industrial, Rural and others Areas (Annual average) for PM<sub>10</sub> 60 øg/m<sup>3</sup> and PM<sub>2.5</sub> = 40 øg/m<sup>3</sup>, all values in øg/m<sup>3</sup>.

### **Pollution control in Delhi**

2779. SHRI AMAR SHANKAR SABLE: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the pollution level in the capital city of India has not been controlled, despite the strict provisions under Section 15 of Environment Protection Act, whereby a person who pollutes can get a punishment upto five years in jail;

(b) whether the Central Government proposes to instruct the Delhi Government to obey the honourable Supreme Court's verdict, on Government official, who fail to punish the polluters;

(c) by when will it implement the court's order; and

(d) whether Central Government proposes to take any action taking into consideration the health of citizens of Delhi and nearby States?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE (DR. MAHESH SHARMA): (a) Continuous Ambient Air Quality Monitoring System (CAAQMS) data has indicated some improvement in air quality of Delhi in 2018 compared to 2017. There is increase in the number of 'Good' to 'Moderate' days to 159 from 152 in 2017, and reduction in the number of 'Poor' to 'Severe' days from 213 in 2017 to 206 in 2018. The annual average values of PM<sub>10</sub> and PM<sub>2.5</sub> have decreased to 243 øg/m<sup>3</sup> and 115 øg/m<sup>3</sup> in 2018 from 266 øg/m<sup>3</sup> and 124 øg/m<sup>3</sup> in 2017 respectively.

(b) and (c) Hon'ble Supreme Court *vide* Order dated 26/11/2018 in Writ Petition (c) No. 13029/1985 in the matter of M.C. Mehta vs. UoI and Ors. has directed Central

Pollution Control Board (CPCB), State Pollution Control Boards (SPCBs) and Authorities under Graded Response Action Plan to take immediate action for prosecution of the nodal agencies that are not taking the issues of air pollution seriously. Show-cause notices have been issued by CPCB for prosecution to four agencies namely Northern Railways, Delhi State Industrial and Infrastructure Development Corporation Ltd. (DSIIDC), National Highways Authority of India on 12.11.2018 and to Irrigation and Flood Control Department, Government of National Capital Territory, Delhi on 03.12.2018.

(d) The Government has taken various measures to control air pollution which *inter alia*, include notification of Graded Response Action Plan for different levels of air pollution in Delhi and NCR; notification of National Ambient Air Quality Standards; setting up of monitoring network for assessment of ambient air quality; introduction of cleaner/alternate fuels like gaseous fuel (CNG, LPG etc.), ethanol blending, launching of National Air Quality index; universalization of BS-IV from 2017; leapfrogging from BS-IV to BS-VI fuel standards since 1st April, 2018 in National Capital Territory of Delhi and from by 1st April, 2020 in the rest of the country; notification of Construction and Demolition Waste Management Rules; banning of burning of biomass; notifications regarding mandatory implementation of dust mitigation measures for construction and demolition activities; promotion of public transport network; streamlining the issuance of Pollution Under Control Certificate; issuance of directions under Section 18(1)(b) of Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1981 and under Section 5 of Environment (Protection) Act, etc. Eastern Peripheral Expressway and Western Peripheral Expressway have also become operational. The Central Government has also notified a Comprehensive Action Plan (CAP) identifying timelines and implementing agency for actions identified for prevention, control and mitigation of air pollution in Delhi and NCR.

#### **State Government's requests for artificial rain**

2780. SHRI T. RATHINAVEL: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that Government is considering to allow the State Governments for creating artificial rain for various needs;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether it is also a fact that the need for artificial rain is felt, at times to clear the air pollution; and