

spot areas. Further, Hon'ble Supreme Court has directed that one smog tower be installed at Connaught Place by the Delhi Government and another be installed at Anand Vihar by the Central Pollution Control Board. The Project Appraisal and Approval Committee at CPCB has in-principle approved the proposal for installation of one smog tower at Anand Vihar in Delhi.

High level of air pollution

1168. SHRI G. C. CHANDRASHEKHAR: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that the level of air pollution has been extremely high as compared to the previous years;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the details of funds allocated to handle this threat, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE (SHRI BABUL SUPRIYO): (a) and (b) The Central Pollution Control Board presently monitors ambient air quality in 793 locations covering 344 cities across the country under the National Air Quality Monitoring Programme (NAMP). Most of the cities have been found complying to the National Standards with respect to SO₂ and NO₂ levels. However, as per last five-year ambient air quality data (2014-2018), 122 cities were identified as the non-attainment cities.

(c) Under the National Clean Air Programme (NCAP), for cities with million plus population and PM₁₀>90µg/m₃, MoEF&CC has earmarked ₹10 crores per city for various components which inter-alia includes Installation and commissioning of Continuous Ambient Air Quality monitoring Stations (CAAQMS), Creating green buffer zone along the roads, Mechanical street sweeper, Mobile Enforcement Unit, Public awareness and capacity building activities, water sprinkler, etc. For cities with population less than 5 lakhs, funds of ₹10 lakhs per city and for cities with a population of 5 to 10 lakhs, ₹20 lakhs per city has been allocated for capacity building and public awareness programmes.

Forest coverage across the country

1169. SHRI BINOY VISWAM: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE be pleased to state: