

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government has received any suggestion from the National Green Tribunal in this regard; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE (SHRI BABUL SUPRIYO): (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d) In pursuance to orders to Hon'ble National Green Tribunal (NGT), Principal Bench, New Delhi *vide* its order dated 20.05.2019 in O.A. 134 of 2015 titled 'Friends through its General Secretary versus Ministry of Water Resources' wherein the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change has been directed to issue appropriate notification prohibiting use of RO where TDS in water is less than 500 mg/l and wherever RO is permitted, a requirement is laid down for recovery of water be more than 60%, the government has drafted regulation for public consultation.

Smog tower in Delhi

49. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government has recently installed a smog tower in Delhi on experimental basis;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government has found the smog tower useful in controlling the air pollution;

(d) if so, whether Government proposes to install such smog towers in different parts of the National Capital; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE (SHRI BABUL SUPRIYO): (a) to (e) A High Level Committee (HLC) was constituted based on the direction of Hon'ble Supreme Court to assess the feasibility of technologies to control air pollution and give a report on pollution control technique including smog tower. The High Level Committee has recommended the installation of smog tower as a pilot in some sensitive and hot

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 Central Pollution Control Board. The Project Appraisal and Approval Committee at CPCB constituted for utilization of Environment Protection Charge (EPC) Fund has in - principle approved the proposal for installation of one smog tower at Anand Vihar in Delhi.

Increase in air pollution in Delhi and NCR

†50. SHRI RAM NATH THAKUR: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that as compared to previous years, this year the level of air pollution in Delhi and NCR has been extremely hazardous for a very long period of time and its ill effect has been noticed especially on the health of children and elders;

(b) if so, the reasons for the unprecedented increase in pollution level and the precautionary steps taken by Government;

(c) whether Supreme Court has suggested to install smog towers at many places in Delhi and NCR; and

(d) if so, whether these smog towers will be installed at various places in Delhi and NCR?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE (SHRI BABUL SUPRIYO): (a) and (b) As per Continuous Ambient Air Quality Monitoring Stations (CAAQMS) data, there is general improvement in air quality of Delhi in 2019. The number of 'Good', 'Satisfactory', and 'Moderate' days has increased to 182 in 2019 as compared to 159 in 2018, 152 in 2017 and 108 in 2016. In 2019, there has been reduction in average annual ' concentration of PM_{2.5} by 19.3% and in average annual concentration of PM₁₀ by 25.1% over 2016 in Delhi.

However, an increase in pollution level was noticed in Delhi and NCR on certain days in November this year due to adverse meteorological conditions like low surface wind speed, low mixing depth and local sources of emissions like industrial emissions, vehicular emissions, road and soil dust, construction and

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.