

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

RAJYA SABHA
UN-STARRED QUESTION NO. 2778
TO BE ANSWERED ON 07.01.2019

WHO report on most polluted cities

2778. SHRI PRABHAT JHA:

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether according to a recent report of WHO, 14 most polluted cities of the world are in India;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether as per the report, there has been continuous improvement in the above situation after 2016; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

(DR. MAHESH SHARMA)

- (a) & (b) The World Health Organization (WHO) released the WHO Global Ambient Air Quality Database (update 2018) which consists of mainly annual means for PM₁₀ and/or PM_{2.5}, covering more than 4000 human settlements in 108 countries for the years from 2008 to 2016. 14 cities of India namely Kanpur, Faridabad, Gaya, Varanasi, Patna, Delhi, Lucknow, Agra, Gurgaon, Muzaffarpur, Srinagar, Jaipur, Patiala and Jodhpur are included in the list of 20 cities which have recorded high levels of PM_{2.5}.
- (c) & (d) Ambient air quality is monitored at 731 locations covering 312 cities/towns in 29 States and 6 Union Territories across the country under National Air Quality Monitoring Programme (NAMP). WHO Report has made assessment of Air quality data up to 2016. Comparison of Air Quality Data from WHO report for 2016 with NAMP data for 2017 reveals that the levels of PM_{2.5} and PM₁₀ have decreased in 2017 in all the above-mentioned 14 cities for which NAMP data is available **(Annexure)**.

Annexure

Comparison between ambient air quality data as given in WHO document (2016 data) and NAMP database for the year 2017

State	City/Town	WHO database		NAMP database	
		(Data provided in the document for year 2016)		(Data for year 2017)	
		City average		City average	
		PM ₁₀	PM _{2.5}	PM ₁₀	PM _{2.5}
Uttar Pradesh	Agra	194	131	185	124
Delhi	Delhi	292	144	241	106
Haryana	Faridabad	316	172	-	-
Bihar	Gaya	275	149	77	-
Haryana	Gurgaon	124	120	-	-
Rajasthan	Jaipur	193	105	177	-
Rajasthan	Jodhpur	180	98	180	-
Uttar Pradesh	Kanpur	319	173	224	-
Uttar Pradesh	Lucknow	255	138	246	102
Bihar	Muzaffarpur	221	120	167	89
J & K	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 PM₁₀ = 60 µg/m³ & PM_{2.5} = 40 µg/m³, all values in µg/m³