

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF EARTH SCIENCES  
RAJYA SABHA  
UNSTARRED QUESTION No. 509  
TO BE ANSWERED ON MONDAY, July 23, 2018**

**WARNING SYSTEM FOR AIRPOLLUTION**

**509.SHRI MAJEED MEMON:**

**Will the Minister of EARTH SCIENCES be pleased to state:**

- (a) whether Government is planning an early warning system for air pollution in the wake of recent dust storm that engulfed Delhi-NCR region;**
- (b) if so, whether SAFAR (System of Air Quality and Weather Forecasting and Research) programme can provide warning, a couple of days in advance; and**
- (c) the steps taken by Government to tackle ground-level PM 2.5 concentrations pollutants?**

**ANSWER**

**MINISTER FOR MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND  
MINISTRY OF EARTH SCIENCES  
(Dr. HARSH VARDHAN)**

- (a) Yes Sir. Recently, Ministry of Environment and Forest & Climate Change (MoEF& CC) has convened a meeting under the chairmanship of Secretary, MoEF& CC on 25th June, 2018 to discuss the application of advanced technologies to deal with air pollution incidents, improve the overall air quality management framework and early warning system for air pollution with officials of expert agencies from Ministry of Earth Sciences (MoES), Indian Space Research Organization-Space Applications Centre (ISRO- SAC), Indian Institute of Remote Sensing (IIRS), India Meteorological Department (IMD), Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology (IITM), National Physical Laboratory (NPL), National Environmental Engineering Research Institute (NEERI), Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Delhi and Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB).**
- (b) Yes.**
- (c) Yes. Government plans to use satellite-based Aerosol Optical Depth (AOD) data for estimating ground-based PM 2.5 levels. However, tackling the ground-level PM 2.5 pollutant concentrations is under the purview of CPCB.**

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