

Govt mulls setting up of air pollution research institute

Press Trust of India

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NEW DELHI: Environment ministry is considering creation of an air pollution research institute to study the impact of pollution and guide the government in better handling of the menace.

"We need to do some research on air pollution as we do in other fields. So, we have thought of creating a new air pollution research institute...It will provide added information to the people and to the government, which will help us in better governance," environment minister Prakash Javadekar said.

The minister was speaking at a two-day conference of Pollution Control Boards and Pollution Control Committees of all states participated by their Chairmen and Member Secretaries.

The minister stressed upon the need to organise similar conferences on a regular basis for active participation of states in capacity building.

"We want to hear suggestions from states. So, we will do separate conferences on air pollution, environment and forests. There will be two workshops in a year at the central level and one at a general level as an effort to build capacity.

Meanwhile, the minister



■ Union environment minister Prakash Javadekar addresses a workshop of Pollution Control Boards of States in New Delhi on Wednesday. PTI

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Prakash Javadekar,
Environment minister

termed "misleading" the latest WHO report on pollution, which listed over 30 Indian cities among hundred most polluted globally.

Javadekar said the WHO

report had not factored in various key pollutants such as sulphur dioxide, nitrogen dioxide and benzene while analysing the air quality and wondered why western countries focus more on India and some other countries and not themselves.

The WHO report, based on 2012-13 data, was prepared taking into consideration particulate matter PM 10 and PM 2.5 and listed Delhi as the 11th most polluted city in the world.

Javadekar said to categorise the cities as polluted based on only PM 2.5 was misleading as there are eight other major pollutants which have adverse impact on health.