

Compliance of NCAP

*82. SHRIMATI VANDANA CHAVAN: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the National Clean Air Programme (NCAP) is to be notified under the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 or any other Act to ensure legal compliance;

(b) if so, details thereof and if not, the reasons as to why the Graded Response Action Plan for New Delhi was notified under 'Environment (Protection) Act, 1986' and whether NCAP is not to be similarly notified;

(c) the details of amount allocated towards this programme, as one time and recurring allocation; and

(d) whether there is any legal and financial strategy to ensure compliance of the NCAP and if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE (DR. HARSH VARDHAN): (a) and (b) In order to address air pollution across the country in a comprehensive manner, Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change has launched the National Clean Air Program (NCAP) as a pan India time bound national level strategy. Presently, there is no proposal under consideration of the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change to notify the National Clean Air Programme (NCAP) under the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986. NCAP is to be implemented by collaborative, multi-scale and cross-sectoral coordination with the State Governments, other Central Ministries and other stakeholders. The NCAP will be institutionalized by respective Ministries and will be organized through inter-sectoral groups which include in addition to related Ministries, Ministry of Finance, Ministry of Health, NITI Aayog, CPCB, experts from industry, academia and civil society.

(c) A budgetary allocation of ₹ 150 crore has been made under NCAP during the financial year 2019-20. A total of ₹ 300 crore over 2 years has been approved for this scheme.

(d) The CPCB has adequate powers under the Air (Prevention and control of Pollution) Act, 1981, specially the provision of Section 16 (2) (b) of the Act for the prevention, control and abatement of air pollution. Central Pollution Control Board and State Pollution Control Boards can issue any directions in writing to any person, officer or authority under The Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1981. Thus there is a legislative structure already in place for carrying out air pollution mitigation in the country.