

- The Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change is implementing Environment Education, Awareness and Training Scheme with the objective to promote environmental awareness among all sections of the society and to mobilize people's participation for conservation of environment.
- Under the National Green Corps (NGC) programme of the Ministry, about one lakh schools have been identified as Eco-clubs, wherein, nearly thirty lakh students are actively participating in various environment protection and conservation activities, including the issues related to the air pollution.
- Ministry is promoting people's participation and awareness building among citizens for environmental conservation through Green Good Deeds that focus on promotion of cycling, saving water and electricity, growing trees, proper maintenance of vehicles, following of lane discipline and reducing congestion on roads by car-pooling etc.

Deaths due to pollution

†978. DR. KIRODI LAL MEENA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is an unprecedented rise in deaths due to excessive carbon emission and vehicular pollution in the Indian cities;

(b) whether Government is aware of the fact that the air we breathe is increasingly becoming toxic; and

(c) if so, the steps being taken by Government to deal with this frightening situation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE (SHRI BABUL SUPRIYO): (a) Various Organizations/ Institutes, from time to time, have been publishing estimates of mortality/ morbidity attributable to environmental pollution based on models, simulations and extrapolations. These estimates are, however, based on models, simulations and extrapolations. Though air pollution is one of the triggering factors for respiratory ailments and associated diseases, there are no conclusive data available in the country to establish direct correlation of death/ disease exclusively due to air pollution. Health effects of air pollution are synergistic manifestation of factors which include food habits, occupational habits, socio-economic status, medical history, immunity, heredity, etc., of the individuals.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(b) Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) along with State Pollution Control Boards and Pollution Control Committees are monitoring ambient air quality at 779 monitoring stations located in 339 cities/towns covering 29 states and 6 union territories across the country under National Air Quality Monitoring Programme (NAMP). The analysis of ambient air quality data for 43 million plus cities revealed that SO₂ levels were within the National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS). With respect to NO₂, 9 cities showed an increasing trend, 10 cities showed a decreasing concentration and 24 cities showed a fluctuating trend. With respect to PM₁₀, 9 cities showed an increasing trend, 5 cities showed a decreasing concentration and 29 cities showed a fluctuating trend. With respect to PM_{2.5}, trends are available for 15 cities, out of which 05 cities showed an increasing trend, 03 cities showed a decreasing concentration, 07 cities showed a fluctuating trend. Further, analysis of data from Continuous Ambient Air Quality Monitoring Stations (CAAQMS) indicated general improvement in air quality of Delhi in the year 2018 as compared to 2017. Number of days in the Air Quality Index (AQI) categories 'Good' to 'Moderate' has increased to 159 in the year 2018 as compared to 152 in 2017, and number of days in the categories 'Poor' to 'Severe' has reduced to 206 in 2018 as compared to 213 in 2017.

(c) The Government has taken several steps to address air pollution, which *inter alia*, include the following:

- notification of National Ambient Air Quality Standards,
- revision of emission standards for industrial sectors from time to time,
- setting up of monitoring network for assessment of ambient air quality,
- introduction of cleaner / alternate fuels like gaseous fuel (CNG, LPG etc.),
- ethanol blending,
- launching of National Air Quality index,
- leapfrogging from BS-IV to BS-VI fuel standards,
- notification of Construction and Demolition Waste Management Rules,
- banning of burning of biomass,
- streamlining the issuance of Pollution Under Control Certificate,
- issuance of directions under Section 18(1)(b) of Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1981 and under Section 5 of Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 for controlling air pollution,

- installation of on-line continuous (24x7) monitoring devices by major industries,
- notification of Graded Response Action Plan (GRAP) for Delhi and NCR,
- Comprehensive Action Plan (CAP) for air pollution control in Delhi and NCR,
- launched National Clean Air Programme (NCAP),
- organization of clean air campaigns, etc.

Biodiversity park

979. SHRI HISHEY LACHUNGPA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE be pleased to state:

- (a) details of the biodiversity park set up or proposed to be set up in different parts of the country during last three years and till date; and
- (b) potential benefits Government intends to pursue by the establishment of these biodiversity parks in the country, details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE (SHRI BABUL SUPRIYO): (a) Biodiversity Parks are set up by the State Governments. This Ministry does not have any scheme for setting up biodiversity parks in the country. However, as per information received from Botanical Survey of India (BSI), the details of Biodiversity Parks set up or proposed to be set up in different parts of the country during last three years and till date is at Statement (*See below*).

(b) Biodiversity Parks are nature reserves that harbour natural heritage of the area and have conservation, educational and cultural values and enhance the quality of environment in urban centres. The underlying principle of the Biodiversity Park is to recreate self-sustaining ecosystems with native flora & fauna and to generate ecological services such as recharging of groundwater, ameliorating local weather and to serve as a sink of carbon dioxide and other ambient pollutants.

Statement

The details of Bio-divesety parks set up/proposed to be set up in the Country

Sl. No.	State	Name of Biodiversity Park
1	2	3
1.	Andhra Pradesh	AP Biodiversity Park, Vizag
2.	Bihar	Biodiversity Park, Kusiargaon, Araria District Bihar
3.	Chhattisgarh	Nandanvan Biodiversity Park, Raipur