

National Clean Air Programme

56. SHRI PRABHAKAR REDDY VEMIREDDY:

SHRI V. VIJAYASAI REDDY:

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

(a) whether it is a fact that Nellore and Vishakhapatnam in Andhra Pradesh have been identified under National Clean Air Programme to tackle air pollution and bring particulate matter levels to acceptable levels;

(b) the details of goals set to be achieved by 2024;

(c) the details of city-specific action plan prepared by the Ministry to achieve the goals set by 2024; and

(d) the details of funds allocated approved, released and spent for this purpose so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE (SHRI BABUL SUPRIYO): (a) to (d) The Central Government launched National Clean Air Programme (NCAP) as a long-term, time-bound, national level strategy to tackle the air pollution problem across the country in a comprehensive manner with targets to achieve 20% to 30% reduction in PM_{10} and $PM_{2.5}$ concentrations by 2024 keeping 2017 as the base year for the comparison of concentration. Under NCAP, 102 non-attainment cities including Visakhapatnam have been identified based on ambient air quality data for the period 2011 - 2015 and WHO report 2014/2018. However, Nellore is not under NCAP. The city specific Action Plans which *inter-alia* includes measures for strengthening the monitoring network, reducing vehicular/industrial emissions, increasing public awareness etc. have been prepared and approved for ground implementation for all 102 non-attainment cities.

For the cities with million plus population and $PM_{10} > 90 \mu g/m^3$, MoEF&CC has earmarked ₹10 crores for various components that *inter-alia* includes Installation and commissioning of Continuous Ambient Air Quality Monitoring Stations (CAAQMS), Creating green buffer zone along the roads, Mechanical street sweeper, Mobile Enforcement Unit, Public awareness and capacity building activities, Water

sprinkler. For the cities with population, less than 5 lakhs, funds of ₹10 lakhs per city has been allocated and for cities with a population of 5 to 10 lakhs, ₹20 lakhs per city has been allocated for capacity building and public awareness programs. Further, under NCAP, Committees at State level namely Steering Committee, Monitoring Committee and Implementation Committee have been constituted for effective implementation and monitoring of the city specific action plans to reduce air pollution.

Area under forest cover

57. DR. AMEE YAJNIK: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the area under forest cover has declined in various parts of the country over the years;

(b) if so, the details thereof along with the percentage of decline and reasons therefor, State/UT-wise;

(c) whether any statute exists to check deforestation and large scale felling of trees in the country;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) whether comprehensive digital maps of notified forests area/land in the country is underway and if so, the details thereof and the progress made so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE (SHRI BABUL SUPRIYO): (a) and (b) Forest Cover assessment for the country is carried out every two years by Forest Survey of India, an organization of Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change and the findings are published as India State of Forest Report (ISFR). Based on last three ISFR (ISFR 2015, ISFR 2017 and ISFR 2019), there is an overall increase of 10,754 square kilometre (km²) in the national forest and tree cover. Some decline in forest cover has been observed in only a few States/UTs in the ISFR-2019 as compared to ISFR-2017, including in Arunachal Pradesh, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland and Sikkim due to various reasons such as shifting cultivation, developmental activities such as mining, construction of dams, road and railway network, etc. Details of State/UT wise forest cover are given in the Statement (*See below*).