

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION No. 1466
TO BE ANSWERED ON 08.03.2021

Schemes for protection of environment

1466. DR. AMEE YAJNIK: SHRI TIRUCHI SIVA:

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

- (a) the details of the schemes implemented by Government for protection of environment across the country during the last three years and the current year;
- (b) whether various States of the country have been going through a critical phase with respect to environmental crisis;
- (c) if so, the details thereof; and
- (d) the remedial measures taken by Government in this regard?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE
(SHRI BABUL SUPRIYO)

(a) The detail of the schemes being implemented by the Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change, Government of India is as under:

(i) **National Clean Air Programme (NCAP)**-Government of India launched National Clean Air Programme (NCAP), which is very comprehensive plan to tackle air pollution problem across the country in a focussed manner to achieve 20 % to 30 % reduction in PM₁₀ and PM_{2.5} levels by 2024 from 2017 levels. The concerned ministries, State Governments, Research Institutes, Industries, etc. are partner in this effort. Under NCAP, a National Knowledge Network (NKN) has been constituted with a group of experts from IITs and Institutes of Repute as an advisory board for providing capacity building, State of art technologies, suggestions, advisories regarding air pollution mitigation and abatement to CPCB, SPCB and ULBS.

Further, on 15th August 2020, the Hon'ble Prime Minister also announced to improve air quality in more than 100 cities. Hon'ble Prime Minister has also launched Air Quality Index (AQI) in 2015, which provides air pollution information and health effect in simple form, which can be understood even by common persons. National Air Quality Standards are also based on health consideration.

(ii) **National Adaptation Fund for Climate Fund (NAFCC)**- The National Adaptation Fund was announced in Budget Speech of 2014-15 with the statement Climate Change is a reality which all of us have to face together. It was operationalized in 2015-16 with budget allocation of Rs. 350 crore for the 12th Five Year Plan. The scheme has continued beyond

12th Five Year Plan till 31st March 2020 with a financial implication of Rs. 364 cr. It is a Central Sector Scheme with National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) as the National Implementing Entity (NIE). The overall aim of the scheme is to support concrete adaptation activities which are not covered under on-going activities through the schemes of State and National Government. It supports Adaptation Projects at National, State and Trans -boundary Level. Long Term Vision/ Impact include (a) Reduced adverse impacts of climate change by building resilience and adaptive capacity of communities and sectors (b) Mainstreaming adaptation activities into development plans of States/ UTs (c) Facilitate achievement of NDC Adaptation Goals- To better adapt to climate change by enhancing investments in development programmes in sectors vulnerable to climate change particularly Agriculture, water, coastal regions, Health and disaster management.

Adaptation projects in the sectors comprising (a) Agriculture (b) Water (c) Forestry (d) Urban (e) Coastal & Low-lying System (f) Disaster Management (g) Marine System (h) Tourism and Human Health are eligible for funding under NAFCC.

The Detailed Project Report (DPR) are based on Needs & Priorities identified under State Action Plan for Climate Change and Missions under the National Action Plan on Climate Change (NAPCC) with 100% Finance with ceiling of INR 25 cr per project. Till date, 30 projects, including two regional projects, have been sanctioned under NAFCC. One project in Haryana has been closed down due non performance. Total sanctioned project cost for these 29 projects is Rs 825 cr. MoEF&CC has released Rs. 510 cr to NABARD. The projects are at various stages of implementation. Overall, the NAFCC projects are distributed over 27 States and UTs covering 130 districts and there are approx. 1.9 million beneficiaries. These projects are focusing on different areas of adaptation including (i) Climate smart Village/Agriculture (ii) Sustainable Livelihoods (iii) Soil and Water Conservation (iv) Forest, Biodiversity and Land Degradation Management (v) Livestock & Fisheries Management.

(iii) The MoEF&CC is currently implementing a centrally sponsored scheme, namely, 'National Plan for Conservation of Aquatic Eco-systems (NPCA)' for conservation and management of wetlands in the country on cost sharing basis between Central Government and respective State Governments. The scheme covers various activities such as interception, diversion and treatment of wastewater, shoreline protection, lake front development, in-situ cleaning i.e. de-silting & de-weeding , storm water management, bioremediation, catchment area treatment, lake beautification, survey & demarcation, bio-fencing, fisheries development, weed control, biodiversity conservation, education and awareness creation, community participation, etc.

(iv) **Environment Education, Awareness and Training (EEAT)-** The MoEF&CC is implementing this scheme since year 1983-84. This scheme aims to promote environmental awareness and mobilize student's participation for environment conservation. The objectives of the scheme are achieved through programmes namely National Green Corps (NGC)- "Ecoclub" Programme, National Nature Camping Programme (NNCP) and Capacity Building Activities (CBA). Under the National Green Corps (NGC) programme of the Ministry, about 1.6 lakh schools have been identified as Eco-clubs, wherein, nearly forty lakh students are actively participating in mass various awareness programmes on various environmental issues. Further, this Ministry has launched the Green Good Deed (GGDs) movement in January 2018 as a social movement with the aim to bring about mass environmental awareness in the society at all levels.

(b) to (d) Ranking of cities based on Air Quality is not done due to complexity of various parameters and their influence on the air quality of individual cities. However, based on air quality data, 124 non-attainment cities have been identified.

Government has taken several steps for mitigation of air pollution such as introduction of BS-VI, expansion of Metro, operationalization of Eastern and Western peripheral expressways, shifting of industries to PNG, waste processing plants, online round the clock monitoring of red category industries, etc. The details of initiatives taken by government to combat air pollution are at **Annexure**.

While the Government is making concerted efforts to mitigate air pollution, the citizens should also extend support for the following activities such as:

- Renew your Pollution Under Control Certificate timely.
- Avoid idling of engines.
- Plan your errands to reduce travel time and trips.
- Adopt clean modes of transport.
- Prefer cycles/ e-bikes for short trips.
- Adopt public transportation wherever feasible.
- Avoid Congested routes. Segregate household waste
- Never burn waste
- Take recyclable waste to collection centres & earn from waste too
- Compost leaves and garden waste
- Avoid vigorous sweeping of leaves in gardens/ parks – use wide rakes
- Dispose e-waste responsibly.
- Adopt green good deeds and encourage others too.
- Use public grievance redressal apps to inform air polluting activities to authorities
- Share about ongoing clean initiatives with others

CENTRAL GOVERNMENT INITIATIVES TO COMBAT AIR POLLUTION

Based on air quality data, 122 non-attainment cities (NACs) have been identified under NCAP and City Specific Clean Air Action Plans have been prepared and approved for 111NACs. The other measures taken by the Government includes:

Vehicular Pollution Control

- Leapfrogging from BS-IV to BS-VI norms for fuel and vehicles since April, 2020.
- Network of Metro rails for public transport are enhanced and more cities are covered.
- Development of Expressway and Highways are also reducing the fuel consumption and pollution.
- Introduction of cleaner/alternate fuels like CNG, LPG, ethanol blending in petrol.
- Faster Adoption and Manufacturing of Electric Vehicles (FAME) -2 scheme has been rolled out
- Permit requirement for electric vehicles has been exempted.
- Promotion of public transport and improvements in roads and building of more bridges to ease congestion on roads.

Industrial Pollution Control

- Stringent emission norms for Coal based Thermal Power Plants (TPPs).
- Pet coke and furnace oil have been banned as fuel in Delhi and NCR States.
- Industrial units shifting to PNG.
- Installation of on-line continuous monitoring devices in highly polluting industries.
- Shifting of Brick kilns to zig-zag technology for reduction of pollution

Waste Management

- Notifications of 6 waste management rules covering solid waste, plastic waste, e-waste, bio-medical waste, C&D waste and hazardous waste.
- Setting up infrastructure such as waste processing plants.
- Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) for plastic and e-waste management.
- Ban on burning of biomass/garbage.

Crop Residue Management

- Under Central Sector Scheme on ‘Promotion of Agricultural Mechanization for in-situ management of Crop Residue in the States of Punjab, Haryana, Uttar Pradesh and NCT of Delhi’, agricultural machines and equipment for in-situ crop residue management are promoted with 50% subsidy to the individual farmers and 80% subsidy for establishment of Custom Hiring Centres.

Monitoring of Air Quality

- Expansion of air quality monitoring network under National Air Quality Monitoring Programme (NAMP)
- Implementation of Air Quality Early Warning System for Delhi. The system provides alerts for taking timely actions.

Allocation of funds

- ₹ 336.8 crores have been sanctioned to non-attainment cities under NCAP for initiating actions such as expansion of monitoring network, construction and demolition waste management facilities, non-motorised transport infrastructure, green buffers, mechanical street sweepers, composting units etc.
- ₹2200 crores have been released in the Budget of FY 2020-21 to tackle the burgeoning problem of air pollution. Further, an amount of 2,217 crores has been allocated for 42 urban centres with a million-plus population in this budget for improvement of air quality.
- Rs. 7365.82 Crores was allocated for Solid Waste Management under Urban Swachh Bharat Mission from 2014-2019.
- Under Atal Mission for Rejuvenation and Urban Transformation (AMRUT) scheme Rs. 1436 Crore have been allocated for non-motorised urban transport and Rs. 1768 Crores for green spaces and parks for five years from FY2015-16 to FY2019-20.
- A provision of 1,41,678 crores over a period of 5 years from 2021-2026 has been made for Urban Swachh Bharat Mission 2.0 with a focus on air pollution reduction by effectively managing waste from construction-and-demolition activities and bio-remediation of all legacy dump sites.
- ₹ 1726.67 crores have been released for crop residue management in the States of Punjab, Haryana, Uttar Pradesh and NCT of Delhi, during the year 2018-21.

Public Participation

- This Ministry has an ongoing Environment Education, Awareness and among all sections of the society, especially school and college level students and to mobilize people's participation for conservation of environment.
- The Green Good Deeds (GGDs), a social movement, is one of the components of the scheme aimed to inculcate green good habits and behaviour among all sections of the society to take green social responsibility such as minimizing the use of single-use plastic, celebrating Green Diwali, use of public transport, avoid personal car and promoting car pool, regular check-ups to get Pollution Control Certificate (PUC), save electricity, save water, avoid congested lanes etc. The detailed suggestive list of good deeds is available at <http://164.100.160.232/sbhb/GoodDeeds.aspx>.
