

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1307
TO BE ANSWERED ON 09.12.2021

Improving National Clean Air Programme

1307 SHRI VIJAY PAL SINGH TOMAR:
SHRI HARNATH SINGH YADAV:
LT.GEN. (DR.) D. P. VATS (RETD.):

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

- (a) the measures being undertaken under the National Clean Air Programme (NCAP) to achieve targets;
- (b) whether Government has taken action on Nation Green Tribunal's suggestions to modify NCAP for better results including reducing time, increasing targets, shift to e-vehicles / CNG vehicles, intensifying public transport system, mechanical cleaning of roads, Enhancement of public parking facilities, improvement in fuel quality and traffic management; and
- (c) if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE
(SHRI ASHWINI KUMAR CHOUBEY)

(a) to (c):

Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change has launched National Clean Air Programme (NCAP) in January 2019 to tackle the problem of air pollution in a comprehensive manner. The national level target of 20%–30% reduction of particulate matter concentration by 2024 is envisaged under the NCAP. 132 non-attainments (NACs) and million plus cities are identified under NCAP for implementation of City Specific Action Plans.

The City Specific Action Plans have been prepared which inter-alia include measures for reducing vehicular/industrial emissions, reducing stubble/bio-mass burning, solid waste management, construction & demolition waste management, strengthening the monitoring network and increasing public awareness. The details of action plans are available at <https://cpcb.nic.in/approved-city-action-plans>. City action plans duly incorporate NGT's suggestion.

Under NCAP Centre level Steering Committee, Monitoring Committee and Implementation Committee has been constituted and periodic review of the implementation

progress is conducted. Also a State Level Steering Committee and Monitoring Committee Chaired by Chief Secretary and Principal Secretary, Environment Department respectively and City/ District level Implementation Committee chaired by Municipal Commissioner/ District Magistrate is constituted and periodically review the status of progress of implementation of actions under NCAP. Government has taken several steps for mitigation of air pollution and the details are enclosed **Annexure-I**

Measures taken by the Government for Air Quality Management

Vehicular Emission

- 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.
- Eastern Peripheral Expressway & Western Peripheral Expressway have been operationalised to divert non destined traffic from Delhi.
- Ban on 10-year-old diesel vehicles and 15-year-old petrol vehicles in Delhi NCR.
- Environment protection charges (EPC) have been imposed on diesel vehicles with engine capacity of 2000cc and above in Delhi NCR.
- 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 Emission

- Stringent emission norms for Coal based Thermal Power Plants (TPPs).
- Ban on use of pet coke and furnace oil in NCR with restricted use of pet coke in cement plants, lime kilns and calcium carbide manufacturing units.
- Shifting of industrial units to PNG.
- Installation of online continuous emission monitoring devices in highly polluting industries.
- Shifting of brick kilns to zig-zag technology for reduction of pollution

Air Pollution due to dust and burning of waste

- 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/Parali 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.
- Sustainable Alternative Towards Affordable Transportation (SATAT) has been launched as an initiative to set up Compressed Bio-Gas (CBG) production plants and make CBG available in the market for use in automotive fuels.

Monitoring of Ambient Air Quality

- Expansion of air quality monitoring network of manual as well as continuous monitoring stations under programmes such as National Air Monitoring Programme (NAMP).
- Initiation of pilot projects to assess alternate ambient monitoring technologies such as low-cost sensors and satellite-based monitoring.
- Implementation of Air Quality Early Warning System for Delhi, Kanpur and Lucknow. The system provides alerts for taking timely actions.
- Public Complaints regarding air pollution issues in Delhi NCR are taken through ‘Sameer App’, ‘Emails’(Aircomplaints.cpcb@gov.in) and ‘Social Media Networks’ (Facebook and Twitter).

Monitoring implementation of NCAP

- Government has launched National Clean Air Programme (NCAP) as a national level strategy to reduce air pollution levels across the country. City Specific Clean Air Action Plans have been prepared and rolled out for implementation in 132 non-attainment and million plus cities.

- ₹ 375.44 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.
- As per the Fifteenth Finance commission recommendations ₹4400 crores have been released in the Budget of FY 2020-21 to tackle the burgeoning problem of air pollution for 42 urban centres with a million-plus population. Further, an amount of ₹12,139 crores has been allocated for improvement of air quality for the award period FY 2021-26.
- City Specific Action Plans for improvement of air quality has been prepared and approved for implementation.
- Implementation of the city specific action plans are regularly monitored by Committees at Central and State level namely Steering Committee, Monitoring Committee and Implementation Committee.
- PRANA a portal for monitoring implementation of NCAP has been launched.
