

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF TOURISM

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 629
ANSWERED ON 02.12.2021

IMPACT OF AIR POLLUTION ON TOURISM

629. DR. L. HANUMANTHAIAH:

Will the Minister of **TOURISM** be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has made any assessment of the impact of air pollution on tourism;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether it has come to the notice of Government that the tourists are experiencing health issues due to pollution; and
- (d) If so, the details thereof and the measures taken by Government in this regard?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF TOURISM

(SHRI G. KISHAN REDDY)

(a) to (d): No formal study has been instituted by Ministry of Tourism, Government of India to assess the impact of air pollution on tourism and whether tourists are experiencing health issues due to pollution or not.

Further, the measures taken by the Government for control of air pollution are attached as Annexure.

STATEMENT IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) to (d) OF RAJYA SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.629 ANSWERED ON 02.12.2021 REGARDING IMPACT OF AIR POLLUTION ON TOURISM

Steps taken by the Central Government to control air pollution

Steps taken to improve air quality in NCR and adjoining areas

Various steps have been taken for monitoring and management of air quality for reducing air pollution in Delhi including NCR. They are as follows:

1. **A Commission on Air Quality Management in NCR and Adjoining Areas (CAQM)** was promulgated vide ordinance dated 13 July, 2021 in exercise of the powers conferred by sub-sections (1), (2) and (3) of section 3 of the Commission for Air Quality Management in National Capital Region and Adjoining Areas Ordinance, 2021 (4 of 2021) for better co-ordination, research, identification and resolution of problems surrounding the air quality index and for matters connected therewith or incidental there to.
2. The Commission for Air Quality Management in NCR and Adjoining Areas(CAQM) constituted a **sub-committee for operationalization of GRAP and issuing necessary orders to the effect**, under which regular meetings are held, and Orders are issued under GRAP for mitigation of air pollution in Delhi-NCR. As on date (24.11.2021), 8 meetings have been convened and 5 Orders issues (Copy of the Orders as well as minutes is available at www.cpcb.nic.in/winter-action-2021-22/).
3. **Air Quality Index:** Hon'ble Prime Minister launched Air Quality Index in 2015, which led to greater public awareness and actions to control air pollution.
4. **Ambient Air Quality Network:** Ambient air quality monitoring network in Delhi NCR strengthened and presently comprises 143 stations (81 continuous and 62 manual systems). Larger coverage and better representative data is now available.
- 5.

State	Installed		
	Manual	CAAQM	Total
Delhi	10	40	50
Haryana	23	22	45
U.P.	20	17	37
Rajasthan	9	2	11
Total	62	81	143

6. **Air Quality Forecast:** Air Quality Early Warning System for Delhi is being implemented since October, 2018 in association with Ministry of Earth Sciences (MoES) which includes information on real time air quality, active fire contribution, and 3-day

forecast along with satellite-based monitoring of Air Quality through Aerosol Optical Depth (AOD) etc.

7. Measures for control of vehicular emissions:

- i. Leapfrogging from BS-IV to BS-VI fuel standards since 1st April, 2018 in NCT of Delhi and from 1st April, 2020 for the rest of the country.
- ii. RFID (radio-frequency identity) system implemented by South Delhi Municipal Corporation (SDMC) for collection of toll and Environment Compensation Charges from commercial vehicles entering Delhi.
- iii. Ban on all diesel vehicles older than 10 years and all petrol vehicles older than 15 years, in Delhi and NCR. (Hon'ble SC order dated 29.10.2018)
- iv. Introduction of BS VI compliant vehicles across the country since April, 2020.
- v. Department of Heavy Industry is providing subsidy on e-vehicles under Faster Adoption and Manufacture of (Hybrid &) Electric Vehicles in India (FAME -II India) scheme.
- vi. Operationalization of Expressways & Highways to divert non-destined traffic.

8. Measures for control of industrial emission:

- i. Ban on use of pet coke and furnace oil as fuel in NCR States since October 24, 2017 and ban on use of imported pet coke in the country since July 26, 2018, with exception for use in permitted processes.
- ii. Introduction of cleaner / alternate fuels like gaseous fuel (CNG, LPG etc.), ethanol blending.
- iii. Shifting of industries to clean fuel and installation of OCEMS in red category industries in Delhi-NCR is in progress.
- iv. Notification regarding SO₂ and NO_x emission standards have been issued for Thermal Power Plants.
- v. Promotion of policies such as 5-10% use of biomass pellets with coal for power generation in thermal power plants and 10% ethanol blending in transport fuels by 2022.
- vi. Development of low carbon strategies across sectors such as phasing out older coal based power plants, compliance of standards, City Gas Distribution (CGD) network, emphasis on improved power reliability in urban areas, etc.
- vii. Shifting of all operational brick kilns to zig-zag technology in Delhi and NCR.

9. Measure for control of Emissions from Construction and Demolition Waste, Solid Waste, Plastic Waste, E- Waste, Biomedical Waste and Hazardous Waste:

- i. Notifications of 6 Waste Management Rules covering solid waste, plastic waste, e-waste, bio-medical waste, C&D waste and hazardous wastes issued in 2016.
- ii. Bio-mining of three dumpsites at Bhalswa, Okhla and Ghazipur is being carried out and is under progress.
- iii. Notifications regarding dust mitigation measures for construction and demolition activities have been issued.
- iv. Increased capacity of Construction & Demolition (C&D) waste processing units along with notification of C & D Waste Management Rules.
- v. Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) for plastic and e-waste management.

10. Measures for control of emissions from Firecrackers: Introduction of green crackers with low emission and noise levels. Green Crackers has 30% potential reduction of PM and gaseous emissions compared to conventional firework.

11. Measures for control of emissions from Stubble Burning:

- i. 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.
- ii. Central Government had launched a Scheme 'Promotion of Agricultural Mechanization for In-Situ Management of Crop Residue in the State of Punjab, Haryana, and Uttar Pradesh & NCT of Delhi'.
- iii. 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.

12. National Clean Air Programme:

- i. PRANA a portal for monitoring implementation of NCAP has been launched.
- ii. With the prime objective of abating Air Pollution, the Ministry, in 2019 launched a National Clean Air Programme (NCAP) as a National-level Strategy outlining the actions for reducing the levels of air pollution at city and regional scales in India.
- iii. NCAP targets to achieve 20 to 30 % reduction in Particulate Matter less than 10 and 2.5 microns (PM₁₀ and PM_{2.5}) concentrations by 2024 across the country.
- iv. Activities in these cities include strengthening of ambient air quality network, source apportionment studies, dust mitigation equipment, composting units, infrastructure for non-motorized transport, shifting to clean energy in unorganized sectors, etc.
- v. The NCAP focuses on multi-sectoral sources of pollution including power plants, industries, vehicles, open burning of waste, construction & demolition activities, etc.; inter-Ministerial coordination for convergence of actions and interventions; and partnership with Institutes of National repute and International Agencies as Knowledge Partners
- vi. Comprehensive Action Plan (CAP) - CAP for air pollution control in Delhi & NCR, with identified timelines for various action points to abate air pollution, has been developed and is being implemented.
- vii. The GRAP provides set of actions to be implemented by concerned agencies under different Air Quality Index (AQI) categories namely, Moderate & Poor, Very Poor, and Severe, and also emergency situations termed as 'Severe+' category.
- viii. 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.

13. Extension of UjawalaYojana to ensure shifting to cleaner fuel.

14. Swatch Bharat Mission and Waste Management initiatives.

Actions taken for effective air quality management in Delhi – NCR by Central Pollution Control Board

1. Monitoring network has been strengthened in NCR towns as well as India.
2. Installation of Vapour Recovery Systems in more than 3000 petrol pumps in NCR
3. Smog tower at AnandVihar, ISBT is being operated from October 01, 2021 onwards and its performance will be evaluated by IIT Bombay in association with IIT Delhi. Sensors for particulate matter monitoring have been installed at different locations around the smog tower so as to get an idea of impact/influence of smog tower operation. Monitoring data generated with help of reference/research grade instruments will be used for giving final report on performance of the tower.
4. A Central Control Room is operated by Central Pollution Control Board wherein, hour to hour tracking of various information such as PM concentrations, Live Air Quality Data of Monitoring stations, Live Air Quality Index, Air Quality Forecast in Delhi-NCR (Source: SAFAR, IITM, Pune) is available. AQI is monitored along with other parameters and is published on the website in the form of AQI Bulletin after analysis. The links for the same have been made available to CAQM for consideration and deciding on urgent actions for control of pollution in Delhi-NCR
5. Industry-specific emission standards have been developed or revised for different sectors including thermal power plants. Criteria for categorizing industries in red/orange/green/white categories have been adopted by SPCBs/PCCs for strengthening enforcement mechanism of environmental norms.
6. Implementation and revision of emission standards for industrial sectors from time to time.
7. Implementation of new emission norms in thermal power plants.
8. Ban on use of pet coke and furnace oil as fuel in NCR states since October 24, 2017 and ban on use of imported pet coke in the country since July 26, 2018, with exception for use in permitted processes.
9. Shifting of industrial units to PNG.
10. Application of dust suppressant was explored and advisory has been issued to SPCBs for using dust suppressants in high emission zones.
11. Research projects are being carried out by CPCB in collaboration with premier institutions like IIT, NEERI, etc. under Environment Protection Charge (EPC) funds which provide scientific inputs for taking focused action towards improvement in air quality of Delhi NCR.
12. Implementation of Graded Response Action Plan along with development of Comprehensive Action Plan (CAP) identifying timelines and implementing agency for actions identified for prevention, control and mitigation of air pollution in Delhi and NCR has been notified.
13. Deployment of CPCB teams in the field for strict vigilance and for evaluation of actions taken by various concerned agencies for mitigation of air pollution during winters since 2017 in Delhi-NCR towns.
14. Interactions with government bodies, public agencies, urban local bodies and Task Force on Graded Action Plan Delhi NCR for assessment of mitigation measures and to combat air pollution.
15. Public Complaints regarding air pollution issues in Delhi NCR (Noida, Gurugram, Greater Noida, Faridabad and Ghaziabad) are taken through 'Sameer App', 'Emails'(aircomplaints.cpcb@gov.in) and 'Social Media Networks' (Facebook and Twitter) and are being forwarded to enforcement agencies for redressal.
