

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

**RAJYA SABHA**  
**UNSTARRED QUESTION No. 535**  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 07.12.2023

**Degradation of air quality and measures for its control**

535. SMT. VANDANA CHAVAN:

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

- (a) the details of the 10 most and 10 least polluted cities in the country along with their pollution levels;
- (b) the details of the short-term and long-term measures undertaken to control the degradation of air quality in the country; and
- (c) whether Government has undertaken any comprehensive study to understand the serious impacts of pollution on health across different sections of the society?

**ANSWER**

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

(a): Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change provides ranking of better performing cities every year under “Swachh Vayu Sarvekshan” for 131 cities/ULB’s covered under National Clean Air Programme (NCAP) based on the framework for taking various measures to abate pollution from solid waste, control of road dust, construction and demolition waste, vehicular emissions, industrial emissions including improvement in PM<sub>10</sub> concentrations. Ambient Air Quality monitoring is carried out in 518 cities/towns of the country. Details of Ambient Air Quality data in 10 cities/towns each having highest PM<sub>10</sub> levels measured during the year 2022 (most polluted cities) is placed at **Annexure 1**.

(b): Ministry of Environment Forest & Climate Change (MoEF&CC) launched National Clean Air Programme (NCAP) in January, 2019 which is a long-term, time-bound national level strategy for prevention, control and abatement of air pollution with an objective to improve air quality in 131 Non-attainment and Million Plus population Cities/Urban Agglomerations. Under NCAP, it has been envisaged to achieve targets of 20 to 30% reduction in Particulate Matter (PM) concentrations by 2024 in 131 cities of 24 States/UTs with respect to base year 2017. Subsequently, the target has been revised to achieve National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS) in terms of OM concentrations by 2025-26.

Under NCAP, 131 targeted cities have been mandated to prepare city action plan to take measures to improve air quality in respective cities. All 131 cities have prepared city action plans to address air pollution arising from various sectors viz. vehicular emissions, road dust, construction, solid waste management and industrial pollution.

An amount of Rs.19,711 crore has been earmarked to 131 cities during the period FY 2019-20 till FY 2025-26 out of which 49 Million Plus Cities/Urban Agglomerations are funded under XVth Finance Commission air quality grant. So far, an amount of Rs.9,635 crore was released to 131 cities to implement City Action Plans in their respective cities.

(c): Ministry has sanctioned projects to assess impact of air pollution on human health in 20 selected cities across the country under National Environmental Health Profile Study.

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**Details of Ambient Air Quality data in 10 cities/towns each having highest PM<sub>10</sub> levels  
measured during the year 2022**

| S.No | Name of the City and State / Union Territory                     | PM <sub>10</sub> concentrations (µg/m <sup>3</sup> ) |
|------|------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------|
| 1    | Jharia, Jharkhand                                                | 281                                                  |
| 2    | Brynihat, Assam                                                  | 257                                                  |
| 3    | Saharsa, Bihar                                                   | 250                                                  |
| 4    | Katihar, Bihar                                                   | 227                                                  |
| 5    | Samastipur, Bihar                                                | 220                                                  |
| 6    | Greater Noida, Uttar Pradesh                                     | 219                                                  |
| 7    | Dharuhera, Haryana<br>Chhapra, Bihar                             | 216                                                  |
| 8    | Buxar, Bihar                                                     | 213                                                  |
| 9    | Ghaziabad, Uttar Pradesh                                         | 211                                                  |
| 10   | Noida, Uttar Pradesh<br>Bhiwadi, Rajasthan<br>Faridabad, Haryana | 210                                                  |

**Details of Ambient Air Quality data in 10 cities/towns each having lowest PM<sub>10</sub> levels  
measured during the year 2022**

| S.No | Name of the City and State / Union Territory              | PM <sub>10</sub> concentrations (µg/m <sup>3</sup> ) |
|------|-----------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------|
| 1    | Brookshabd , Andaman & Nicobar (UT)                       | 16                                                   |
| 2    | Lunglei , Mizoram                                         | 19                                                   |
| 3    | Kolasib, Mizoram<br>Serchhip, Mizoram<br>Rayangla, Sikkim | 20                                                   |
| 4    | Udupi, Karnataka                                          | 21                                                   |
| 5    | Port Blair, Andaman & Nicobar (UT)<br>Champhai, Mizoram   | 22                                                   |
| 6    | Hatras, Uttar Pradesh                                     | 23                                                   |
| 7    | Mamit, Mizoram<br>Chunghang, Sikkim<br>Mangan, Sikkim     | 25                                                   |
| 8    | Lawngtlai, Mizoram<br>Saiha, Mizoram                      | 27                                                   |
| 9    | Mallappuram , Kerala<br>Namchi, Sikkim<br>Pelling, Sikkim | 31                                                   |
| 10   | Pathanamthitta , Kerala                                   | 33                                                   |