

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 374
TO BE ANSWERED ON 25.07.2024

Failure to combat air pollution

374. SHRI ANIL KUMAR YADAV MANDADI:

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

- (a) whether Government has taken any concrete steps to combat air pollution in the last five years, if so, the details thereof;
- (b) whether it is a fact that, considering the deteriorating air quality across the country, Government has miserably failed to combat air pollution across the major cities, including Hyderabad; and
- (c) if so, the response of Government in this regard?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE
(SHRI KIRTI VARDHAN SINGH)

(a) to (c): 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. 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 up to 40% reduction or achieve National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS) in terms of PM concentrations by 2025-26. Cities are provided with funds to support implementation of City Action Plans for taking measures to improve air quality. All 131 cities/ULBs have prepared the City Action Plans under NCAP.

95 cities including Hyderabad city out of 131 cities have shown improvement in air quality in terms of annual PM10 concentrations in FY 2023-24 with respect to the baseline of FY 2017-18. 18 cities have met National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS) for PM10 (60 µg/m³) in FY 2023-24.

Hyderabad City has shown reduction of 26.4% in PM10 concentration during FY 2023-24 as compared to levels during FY 2017-18. Further, all 09 metro cities have shown improvement in air quality. Details of air quality levels in metro cities and number of cities showing improvement in air quality under NCAP are enclosed at Annexure I.

Details of air quality in terms of PM₁₀ levels in Metro cities

Sl. No.	Cities	PM ₁₀ levels in 2017-2018 (µg/m ³)	PM ₁₀ levels in 2023-24 (µg/m ³)
1	Delhi	241	208
2	Ahmedabad	164	98
3	Surat	130	103
4	Bengaluru	92	70
5	Greater Mumbai	161	94
6	Pune	102	98
7	Chennai	66	63
8	Hyderabad	110	81
9	Kolkata	147	94

Details of number of cities showing improvement in air quality under NCAP

Sl. No.	Improvement in PM ₁₀ levels in FY 2023-24 as against FY 2017-18 (%)	No. of Cities	(95) Cities
1	>40	22	Varanasi, Bareilly, Firozabad, Dehradun, Dhanbad, Tuticorin, Nalagarh, Moradabad, Khurja, Trichy, Kohima, Lucknow, Kanpur, Kadapa, Sivasagar, Sunder Nagar, Agra, Greater Mumbai, Rishikesh, Parwanoo, Jodhpur, Byrnihat
2	>30-40	13	Ahmedabad, Ghaziabad, Rajkot, Jalandhar, Raebareli, Amritsar, Kolkata, Jammu, Silchar, Vijayawada, Naya Nangal, Dimapur, Baddi
3	>20-30	16	Khanna, Durgapur, Kurnool, Dera Baba Nanak, Vadodara, Allahabad, Asansol, Hyderabad, Gorakhpur, Ranchi, Bengaluru, Akola, Ananthpur, Durg Bhilainagar, Surat, Noida
4	>10-20	21	Howrah, Thane, Latur, Nellore, Gajraula, Alwar, Chittur, Kala Amb, Mandi Gobindgarh, Amravati, Patiala, Jaipur, Ongole, Delhi, Chandrapur, Nashik, Jhansi, Sangli, Kota, Devanagere, Rajamuhndary
5	1-10	23	Hubli-Dharwad, Jabalpur, Ujjain, Guntur, Kalinga Nagar, Meerut, Nagpur, Eluru, Madurai, Damtal, Haldia, Anpara, Badlapur, Sangareddy, Udaipur, Chennai, Ludhiana, Pune, Jamshedpur, Kolhapur, Ulhasnagar, Srikakulam, Kashipur
