

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 382
TO BE ANSWERED ON 28.11.2024

Air Pollution

382. SHRI SANJAY KUMAR JHA:

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

- (a) whether Government has an estimation on the impact of air pollution and loss of life due to poisonous air, if so, the details from 2019-24, State-wise;
- (b) the progress made under the National Clean Air Programme to address the issue of air pollution;
- (c) the details of financial assistance provided to the family who lost their life due to air pollution from 2019 to 2024, State-wise; and
- (d) whether any expert body/ committee has been appointed in advisory capacity or in any other way to make suggestions or recommendations to address the situation, if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

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

(a) & (c): There is no conclusive data available to establish a direct correlation of loss of life due to air pollution. Air pollution is one of the many factors affecting respiratory ailments and associated diseases. Health is impacted by a number of factors, which include food habits, occupational habits, socio-economic status, medical history, immunity, heredity, etc., of the individuals apart from the environment.

(b) & (d): Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEF&CC) has launched National Clean Air Programme (NCAP) in January 2019 as a national strategy to address air pollution in targeted 130 non-attainment cities/Million-plus cities across the country through implementation of national, state and city level action plans.

Under the Programme, an amount of Rs.11,211 crore has been provided to 130 cities for implementation of City Action plans to take measures to improve air quality.

As per the annual performance assessment carried out for 2023-24, 97 cities out of 130 cities have shown improvement in air quality in terms of PM10 concentrations in FY 2023-24 as compared to base levels of 2017-18. 55 cities have achieved reduction of 20% and above in PM10 levels in 2023-24 with respect to the levels of 2017-18. Further, 18 cities conform to national ambient air quality standards in terms of Particulate Matter concentrations during FY 2023-24.

The following committees have been set up at national, state and city level for coordination, review and monitoring of progress of action plans under NCAP:

- a. National Level
 - (i) Apex Committee
 - (ii) Steering Committee
 - (iii) Monitoring Committee
 - (iv) Implementation Committee
- b. State Level
 - (i) Steering Committee
 - (ii) Implementation Committee
- c. City Level
 - (i) City level Implementation and Monitoring Committee

Further, National Knowledge Network (NKN) has been constituted with a vision to build local technical capacities and create a larger pool of institutes to support activities under the NCAP.
