

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 393
TO BE ANSWERED ON 28.11.2024

Deteriorated Air Quality

393. SHRI HARIS BEERAN:
SMT. PHULO DEVI NETAM:
SMT. RANJEET RANJAN:

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

- (a) whether Government is aware of the recent deterioration in air quality across multiple Indian cities especially PM 2.5 levels which have gone above safe limits in major metro areas;
- (b) reasons for Government's failure to achieve National Clean Air Programme (NCAP) targets;
- (c) how Government plans to address air quality issues in tier 2 and 3 cities that lack extensive monitoring infrastructure; and
- (d) budgetary allocation towards satellite data interpretation for real-time air quality management in the last five years?

ANSWER

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

(a): Air quality monitoring in terms of PM2.5 levels is monitored in 454 cities out of which 246 cities met national ambient air quality standards for annual average of PM2.5 levels in the year 2023. PM2.5 levels of metro cities measured in the year 2023 are enclosed at **Annexure I**.

(b): National Clean Air Programme (NCAP) was launched by Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC) in January 2019 with an aim to improve air quality in 130 cities (non-attainment cities and Million Plus Cities) in 24 States/UTs through implementation of National, State and City level clean air action plans. NCAP envisages reduction in PM10 levels up to 40% or achievement of national standards (60 microgram/cubic meter) by 2025-26.

In addition to this, NCAP emphasises on implementation of City Action Plans (CAPs) through the convergence of resources from various Central Government schemes such as Swachh Bharat Mission (Urban), AMRUT, Smart City Mission, SATAT, and Nagar Van Yojana, as well as resources from State Govts./ UT administration and agencies like Municipal Corporations and Urban Development authorities.

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 Particular Matter concentrations during FY 2023-24.

(c) & (d) : At present, ambient air quality monitoring is carried out in 550 cities covering 28 States and 8 UTs. To address air quality issues, 130 cities have prepared city action plans under NCAP to take measures to improve air quality. 24 States/UTs have prepared State action plans in regard for improvement of air quality. In addition, several Govt. of India schemes/programmes namely, Swachh Bharat Mission, AMRUT, Smart City Mission, Urban Transport, PM E-Bus Sewa, SATAT, Nagar Van Yojana, Vehicle Scrapping Policy, FAME – II, SAMARTH – National Biomass Mission, National Bio-energy Programme and Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana are implemented throughout the Country contributing to reduction in air pollution. Some of the other measures taken by the Government for air quality management are placed at **Annexure II**. An allocation of Rs. 1,04,39,130/- has been made for satellite-based study of ambient air quality.

Annexure I**Details of annual average of PM2.5 levels in metro cities during the year 2023**

Sr. No.	State	City	Annual average PM2.5 levels ($\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$)
1	Delhi	Delhi	105
2	Gujarat	Ahmedabad	39
3	Gujarat	Surat	50
4	Karnataka	Bangalore	33
5	Maharashtra	Mumbai	47
6	Maharashtra	Pune	52
7	Tamil Nadu	Chennai	28
8	Telangana	Hyderabad	38
9	West Bengal	Kolkata	48

Note: National Ambient Air Quality Standard for PM2.5 concentrations (annual average) is 40 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$.

Annexure II

Measures taken by the Government for air quality management

- i. Emission standards for more than 80 industries have been notified under Environment (Protection) Rules, 1986
- ii. Emission standards recently notified/revised:
 - a) Thermal power plants
 - b) Diesel/petrol/CNG generator sets
 - c) Industrial boilers
 - d) Lime Kilns
 - e) Brick kilns and conversion of zig-zag technology
 - f) Calcinated petcoke industry
 - g) Hot mix plants
- iii. Leapfrogging to Bharat Stage-VI (BS-VI) emissions norms from 1st April 2020
- iv. Vehicle Scrapping Policy, Rules for Registered Vehicle Scrapping Facilities and Automated Testing Stations by MoRTH
- v. Waste management rules for solid waste, plastic waste, hazardous waste, e-waste, battery waste, biomedical waste, 100% ash utilisation by Thermal Power Plants
- vi. Market-based Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) regulations introduced for waste categories, viz. plastic packaging, e-waste, battery waste, waste tyres & used oil
- vii. 12 identified Single-Use Plastics (SUP) having high littering potential and low utility were banned from 1st July, 2022
- viii. Mandate for utilisation of minimum 5% of crop residue along with coal (pellets/bricklettes) in thermal power plants in NCR and adjoining areas
- ix. Categorization of industrial areas as Critically and Severely Polluted Areas (CPAs/SPAs) based on Comprehensive Environmental Pollution Index (CEPI).
