

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 388
TO BE ANSWERED ON 06.02.2025

Collaborative measures to combat air pollution

388. SHRI K.R. SURESH REDDY:

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

- (a) the specific, collaborative measures taken by Government to combat air pollution in Indian metropolitan cities, especially Delhi;
- (b) the number of illnesses and deaths cases in the country in last five years which can be attributed to climate crisis; and
- (c) Whether there is a systematic method being undertaken to measure the consequences of climate change on the health, in light of the concerning Lancet report?

ANSWER

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

(a): 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 including metropolitan cities in 24 States/UTs. NCAP is multi-sectoral initiative involving the coordinated efforts of the Central and State Governments, Urban Local Bodies (ULBs), and other stakeholders. It emphasizes source-specific mitigation measures through city, state, and national-level clean air action plans.

City Specific Clean Air Action Plans have been prepared by all cities to implement air quality improvement measures in respective cities. These plans target air pollution sources like soil & road dust, vehicular emissions, waste burning, construction & demolition activities, and industrial pollution. In addition, funding for implementation of City Action Plans (CAPs) is mobilized through the convergence of resources from various Central Government schemes such as Swachh Bharat Mission- Urban (SBM-U), Atal Mission for Rejuvenation and Urban Transformation (AMRUT), Smart City Mission (SCM), Sustainable Alternative Towards Affordable Transportation (SATAT), Faster Adoption and Manufacturing of Hybrid and Electric Vehicles (FAME-II), and Nagar Van Yojana (NVY), as well as resources from State/UT Governments and agencies like Municipal Corporations and Urban Development authorities.

Further, an allocation of Rs. 19,611 crore has been made for 130 cities as performance linked grants for critical gap funding to implement air pollution mitigation measures under NCAP. An amount of Rs. 130.42 Cr has been provided to Delhi for implementing City action plan for taking measures to improve air quality.

Some of the other key measures taken by the Central Government for air quality management are enclosed at **Annexure I**.

Further, Commission for Air Quality Management (CAQM) in National Capital Region (NCR) and Adjoining Areas has been constituted for coordination, research, identification and resolution of problems surrounding the air quality index in NCR in co-ordination with the Govt. of National Capital Territory of Delhi and the States of Punjab, Haryana, Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh.

Graded Response Action Plan (GRAP) has been formulated for Delhi NCR to tackle the issue of sudden rise in air pollution and necessary directions were issued by CAQM for its implementation. Actions listed for different Air Quality Index (AQI) levels under GRAP are invoked from time to time. Specific measures taken in Delhi in respect of air quality improvement are enclosed at **Annexure II**.

(b) & (c): There is no conclusive data available to establish a direct correlation of illnesses and deaths due climate crisis. As per India's Third National Communication, submitted to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change in December 2023, India's Health sector, in preparedness for climate change, has put in place the National Plan on Climate Change and Human Health (NAPCCHH), as one of the Missions under National Action Plan on Climate Change for which Ministry of Health and Family Welfare is the nodal ministry. The objective is to strengthen health care services against the adverse impact of climate change on health. The NAPCCHH is implemented through planned short-term, medium-term and long-term activities with a view:-

- i. To create awareness among general and vulnerable population, health-care providers and policy makers regarding impacts of climate change on human health;
- ii. To strengthen capacity of existing and future healthcare workforce to combat health conditions / diseases due to variability in climate;
- iii. To strengthen health preparedness and response by performing situational analysis, developing health adaptation plans, setting up surveillance and early warning systems, building low carbon, sustainable, and climate resilient healthcare infrastructure at national, state and district levels;
- iv. To develop partnerships and create synergy with other missions, sectors and organisations to ensure that health is adequately represented in the climate change agenda in the country; and
- v. To strengthen research and technology capacity to fill the evidence gap on climate change impact on human health and its solutions.

Measures taken by the Central 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/brickettes) 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).

Specific measures taken in Delhi in respect of air quality improvement:

- i. Directions prescribing measures for control of pollution from various sources such as implementation of RECD system/ dual fuel kits in DG sets, use of cleaner fuels in industries, shift to EV/ CNG/ BS VI diesel fuel in transport sector, implementation of dust control measures at C&D sites etc., have been issued by CAQM.
- ii. Directions issued by CAQM to Government of NCT of Delhi and State Governments of Haryana, Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh for migration of public transport services, especially buses in NCR to cleaner modes. All state govt. bus services between Delhi and any city/town in the states of Haryana, Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh to be operated only through EV /CNG/BS-VI diesel w.e.f. 01.11.2023.
- iii. CAQM has issued directions for co-firing of 5-10% biomass with coal in thermal power plants located within 300 kms of Delhi, and, in captive power plants of industrial units located in NCR.
- iv. Online Continuous Emission Monitoring System (OCEMS) in red category air polluting industries in Delhi-NCR have been installed.
- v. Industrial units in Delhi have shifted to PNG/cleaner fuels and, operational units in NCR have shifted to PNG/Biomass.
- vi. Directions have been issued for conversion of brick kilns to zig-zag technology in Delhi and NCR.
- vii. Ban on use of pet coke and furnace oil as fuel in NCR States was issued since October 24, 2017.
- viii. An approved fuel list is in force in Delhi-NCR w.e.f. 01.01.2023. Industries operating on only PNG or biomass are permitted in NCR, except for specific requirement of other fuels by specific industries owing to technical, technological and process requirements.
- ix. Stringent PM emission norms for biomass based boilers have been prescribed for compliance in NCR.
- x. Directions issued to DPCC and SPCBs in NCR to enforce installation of anti-smog guns and other dust control measures at C&D sites.
- xi. Directions issued for setting up of a “Dust Control and Management Cell” by road owning/ maintaining/ construction agencies for monitoring and effective implementation of dust control measures in the NCR.
- xii. Online monitoring mechanism (through web portal) has been introduced for monitoring compliance of dust mitigation measures for construction sites.
- xiii. 40 teams have been deputed by CPCB since December 2021, to assist CAQM, for conducting incognito inspections of air polluting industries, C&D sites, DG sets in Delhi-NCR to check implementation status of pollution control measures and compliance of other provisions of the Air (P&CP) Act, 1981.