

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

RAJYA SABHA
STARRED QUESTION NO. 104
TO BE ANSWERED ON 13.02.2025

Initiatives regarding National Clean Air Program

*104. DR. K. LAXMAN:

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

- (a) the progress made under the National Clean Air Programme (NCAP) in reducing particulate matter levels and the number of cities which have achieved significant improvements in air quality;
- (b) the manner in which allocations of ₹11,200 crore contributed to air pollution mitigation measures in the 130 cities covered under NCAP; and
- (c) the key strategies implemented in cities that have achieved national ambient air quality standards under NCAP?

ANSWER

MINISTER FOR ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE
(SHRI BHUPENDER YADAV)

(a) to (c) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY OF PARA (a) TO (c) OF STARRED QUESTION NO. 104 TO BE ANSWERED ON 13.02.2025 IN RAJYA SABHA RAISED BY DR. K. LAXMAN TITLED “INITIATIVES REGARDING NATIONAL CLEAN AIR PROGRAM”

(a) to (c): National Clean Air Program (NCAP) was launched as a National level strategy for prevention, control and abatement of air pollution, with an objective to improve air quality in 130 cities in 24 States/UTs.

An amount of Rs. 11,541.88 crore was provided to 130 cities since 2019-20 under the NCAP for implementation of city-specific action plans. These plans include air quality improvement measures for air pollution sources like soil & road dust, vehicular emissions, waste burning, Construction & Demolition activities, and industrial pollution. The activities undertaken in 130 targeted cities under NCAP including convergence of Central and State Government schemes for air quality improvement are enclosed at **Annexure I**.

NCAP follows a comprehensive, integrated, multi-scale and cross-sectoral coordination between relevant Central Ministries, State Governments, Local Bodies and collaborative approach to address air pollution problems in targeted cities. The strategy includes preparation of action plans, implementation through convergence of resources, performance linked incentive grants, capacity building of urban local bodies, and robust monitoring framework. Details in this regard are given below:

- (i). City-specific micro action plans with yearly improvement trajectory as well as State and National level plans have been prepared.
- (ii). Convergence of resources from various schemes of Central & State Governments such as Swachh Bharat Mission (Urban), AMRUT, Smart City Mission, Sustainable Alternative Towards Affordable Transportation (SATAT), and Nagar Van Yojana, as well as resources from State Govts./ UT administration and agencies like Municipal Corporations and Urban Development authorities are mobilized for implementation of action plans. In addition, performance-based incentive grant is provided under NCAP to cities for funding the critical gap.
- (iii). Institutional mechanism has been put in place for close monitoring and coordination through Steering, Monitoring and Implementation Committees at National, State and City levels. A comprehensive web-based portal PRANA for program management and tracking of physical & financial progress has also been established.
- (iv). A National Knowledge Network (NKN) comprising Institutes of Repute (IoRs) including IITs has been set up to provide technical support to States and Cities. One dedicated technical person has been engaged at each Urban Local Body (ULB) and State Pollution Control Board (SPCB) to support Project Management Units (PMUs) for effective implementation of the NCAP. Capacity Building Programmes have been conducted to provide periodical training to various stakeholders.

Due to efforts made under the programme, 97 cities out of 130 cities have shown improvement in air quality in terms of reduction in annual PM₁₀ concentrations in FY 2023-24 with respect to the levels of FY 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. 18 out of 130 cities have met National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS) for PM₁₀ (60 µg/m³) in FY 2023-24.

Annexure I

Details of activities undertaken in 130 targeted cities under NCAP including convergence of Central and State Government schemes for air quality improvement:

S. No.	Sector	Activity	Quantity
1	Road dust	End-to end pavement of roads	10,198 km
2		Procurement of Mechanical Road Sweepers and mechanical road sweeping	761 Nos. (36,500 km road length covered per day)
3	Greening activities	Greening of urban areas	8,953 acres
4	Construction & Demolition waste	Establishment of C&D processing sites	97 Nos. (10,233 TPD processed/ day)
6	Clean fuels	Shifting of conventional crematorium to clean fuels	121 Nos.
7	Vehicular pollution	Procurement of electric-buses/CNG	3,982 Nos.
8		Establishment of EV-charging stations	294 Nos.
9	Waste management	Remediation of legacy waste	541 Lakh MT
