

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION No. 192
TO BE ANSWERED ON 24.06.2019

Air quality and effectiveness of pollution control programmes

192. DR. ASHOK BAJPAI

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

- (a) whether it is a fact that no significant improvement is found in air quality even after pollution control programmes being implemented so far;
- (b) if so, whether Government is planning to have a fresh look at the problem; and
- (c) if not, the reasons therefor?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE
(SHRI BABUL SUPRIYO)

- (a) Continuous Ambient Air Quality Monitoring Stations (CAAQMS) data indicated general improvement in Air Quality Index (AQI) of Delhi in 2018, despite usual seasonal pattern wherein minimum pollutant levels are observed during monsoon, moderate levels during summers and high concentration of pollutants in winters. Overall improvement in air quality of Delhi was noted in 2018 (Jan – Dec, 2018) as compared to 2017 (Jan – Dec, 2017). Number of ‘Good’ to ‘Moderate’ days has increased to 159 in 2018, as compared to 152 in 2017, and number of ‘Poor’ to ‘Severe’ days has reduced to 206, compared to 213 in 2017. In Delhi, there is 14.8% reduction in PM_{2.5} levels and 16.5% reduction in PM₁₀ levels in 2018 over 2016 (**Annexure-I**).

On the basis of last five-year ambient air quality data (2014-2018), the parameters wise trends are as follows:

- **SO₂**: The analysis of five-year data reveals that 39 cities showed a decreasing trend, 42 cities showed steady trend, 38 cities showed increasing trend and 137 cities showed fluctuating trend. However, all the cities were within the National Standard.
- **NO₂**: Ambient Air Quality data with respect to NO₂ reveals that 29 cities showed a decreasing trend, 7 cities showed steady trend, 46 cities showed increasing trend and 174 cities showed fluctuating trend. However, most of the cities were within the National Standard.
- **PM₁₀**: With respect to PM₁₀, ambient air quality data of last five year reveals that 18 cities showed a decreasing trend, 28 cities showed increasing trend and 216 cities showed fluctuating trend.

- **PM_{2.5}:** Ambient Air Quality data with respect to PM_{2.5} reveals that 12 cities showed a decreasing trend, 12 cities showed an increasing trend and 56 cities showed fluctuating trend.
- (b) & (c) The Central Government has taken a number of regulatory measures for prevention, control and abatement of air pollution in the country.

Action Plans for Improvement of Air Quality in Delhi NCR:

- (i) Graded Response Action Plan (GRAP) was notified on January 12, 2017, for prevention, control and abatement of air pollution in Delhi and NCR. It identifies graded measures and implementing agencies for response to four AQI categories, namely, Moderate to Poor, Very Poor, Severe and Severe + or Emergency.
- (ii) The Central Government has notified a Comprehensive Action Plan (CAP) in 2018 identifying timelines and implementing agencies for actions identified for prevention, control and mitigation of air pollution in Delhi and NCR.

Action Plans for Improvement of Air Quality of Other Cities:

- i) Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change has launched National Clean Air Programme (NCAP) in January 2019 to tackle the problem of air pollution in a comprehensive manner with targets to achieve 20 to 30 % reduction in PM₁₀ and PM_{2.5} concentrations by 2024. This is keeping 2017 as the base year for the comparison of concentration. The overall objective is to augment and evolve effective ambient air quality monitoring network across the country besides ensuring comprehensive management plan for prevention, control and abatement of air pollution and enhancing public awareness and capacity building measures.
- ii) 102 non-attainment cities have been identified based on ambient air quality data for the period 2011 – 2015 and WHO report 2014/2018. A total of 86 city specific action plans have been approved for ground implementation.

The Central Government has taken several measures for prevention, control and abatement of air pollution across the country. These include-

Monitoring

- Setting up of monitoring network for assessment of ambient air quality.
- Notification of National Ambient Air Quality Standards.
- Launch of National Air Quality Index.
- Implementation of Air Quality Early Warning System for Delhi in October, 2018 in association with Ministry of Earth Sciences (MoES).

Transport

- Leapfrogging from BS-IV to BS-VI fuel standards since 1st April, 2018 in NCT of Delhi and from by 1st April, 2020 in the rest of the country.
- Introduction of cleaner / alternate fuels like gaseous fuel (CNG, LPG etc.), ethanol blending.
- Promotion of public transport and improvements in roads and building of more bridges to ease congestion on roads.
- Operationalisation of Eastern Peripheral Expressway & Western Peripheral Expressway to divert non-destined traffic from Delhi.
- Streamlining the issuance of Pollution Under Control Certificate.
- Environment Protection Charges (EPC) have been imposed on diesel vehicles with engine capacity of 2000cc and above in Delhi NCR.

Industry

- Badarpur thermal power plant has been closed from 15th October, 2018.
- All brick kilns have been shifted to zig-zag technology in Delhi and NCR.
- Installation of on-line continuous (24x7) monitoring devices all red category industries in Delhi and NCR.
- Revision of emission standards for industrial sectors from time to time.
- Ban on pet coke and furnace oil - monitoring of use of pet coke in Lime Kilns/Cement Kilns and Calcium Carbide Industry in Delhi and NCR States.

Biomass and Solid Waste

- A new Central Sector Scheme on 'Promotion of Agricultural Mechanization for in-situ management of Crop Residue in the States of Punjab, Haryana, Uttar Pradesh and NCT of Delhi' for the period from 2018-19 and 2019-20 has been launched.
- Banning of burning of biomass.
- 3 Waste-to-Energy (W-t-E) plants are currently operational in Delhi with atotal capacity of 5100 Tonnes Per Day (TPD).
- Notifications of 6 waste management rules covering solid waste, plastic waste, e-waste, bio-medical waste, C&D waste and hazardous wastes issued in 2016.

Dust

- Notifications regarding dust mitigation measures for construction and demolition activities.
- Number of mechanised road sweeping machines has been increased significantly and presently 60 machines are deployed for cleaning of roads in Delhi.

Public Outreach

- Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change and Delhi Government launched Clean Air for Delhi Campaign from 10th – 23rd Feb 2018 and to check air polluting activities pre and post Diwali, a special campaign called "Clean Air Campaign" during November 01, 2018 to November 10, 2018.
- Ministry is promoting peoples participation and awareness building among citizens for environmental conservation through Green Goods Deeds that focus on promotion of cycling, saving water and electricity, growing trees, proper maintenance of vehicles, following of lane discipline and reducing congestion on roads by car pooling etc.
- Development of mechanism for redressal of public complaints regarding air pollution issues in Delhi and NCR (through 'Sameer App', 'Emails'(aircomplaints.cpcb@gov.in) and 'Social Media Networks' (Facebook and Twitter) etc.

Annexure – I

Annual Average Values of CAAQMS Stations in Delhi		
Year	PM2.5 in $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$	PM10 in $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$
2016	135	291
2017	124	266
2018	115	243
Percentage Reduction in 2018 compare to 2016	14.8	16.5
Percentage Reduction in 2018 compare to 2017	7.3	8.6
Percentage Reduction in 2017 compare to 2016	8.1	8.6