

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION No. 509
TO BE ANSWERED ON 02.12.2021

Pollution in Delhi

509. DR. V. SIVADASAN:

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

- (a) whether Government is aware of the reports of pollution in Delhi being at dangerously high level; and;
(b) if so, the steps taken by Government to deal with it?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE
(SHRI ASHWINI KUMAR CHOUBEY)

(a) and (b)

Yes Sir, Government is aware of poor ambient air quality of Delhi especially during winter months. High level of Air Quality Index (AQI) is attributed to adverse meteorological conditions and contribution of air pollutants from various sources in the air shed of NCR.

The steps taken by Government to improve Air Quality Index (AQI) in Delhi and NCR is given at Annexure-I.

ANNEXURE-I

ANNEXURE REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO (b) OF THE RAJYA SABHA UN-STARRED QUESTION NO. 513 DUE FOR REPLY ON 2.12.2021 REGARDING 'STEPS TO IMPROVE AQI IN THE CAPITAL' BY DR. C.M. RAMESH, HON'BLE MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT

Steps taken to improve air quality in NCR and adjoining areas

Various steps have been taken for abatement, control and prevention of air pollution and its management for reducing air pollution in Delhi including NCR. They are as follows:

1. **A Commission on Air Quality Management in NCR and Adjoining Areas (CAQM)** has been constituted by enactment of an Act by Parliament for better co-ordination, research, identification and resolution of problems surrounding the air quality index and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto.
2. The Commission for Air Quality Management in NCR and Adjoining Areas (CAQM) constituted a **sub-committee for operationalization of GRAP and issuing necessary orders to the effect**, under which regular meetings are held, and Orders are issued under GRAP for mitigation of air pollution in Delhi-NCR. As on date (24.11.2021), 8 meetings have been convened and 5 Orders issued (Copy of the Orders as well as minutes is available at www.cpcb.nic.in/winter-action-2021-22/).
3. **Ambient Air Quality Network:** Ambient air quality monitoring network in Delhi NCR strengthened and presently comprises 143 stations (81 continuous and 62 manual systems). Larger coverage and better representative data is now available.

State	Installed		
	Manual	CAAQM	Total
Delhi	10	40	50
Haryana	23	22	45
U.P.	20	17	37
Rajasthan	9	2	11
Total	62	81	143

4. **Air Quality Forecast:** Air Quality Early Warning System for Delhi is being implemented since October, 2018 in association with Ministry of Earth Sciences (MoES) which includes

information on real time air quality, active fire contribution, and 3-day forecast along with satellite-based monitoring of Air Quality through Aerosol Optical Depth (AOD) etc.

5. Measures for control of vehicular emissions:

- i. Leapfrogging from BS-IV to BS-VI fuel standards since 1st April, 2018 in NCT of Delhi and from 1st April, 2020 for the rest of the country.
- ii. RFID (radio-frequency identity) system implemented by South Delhi Municipal Corporation (SDMC) for collection of toll and Environment Compensation Charges from commercial vehicles entering Delhi.
- iii. Ban on all diesel vehicles older than 10 years and all petrol vehicles older than 15 years, in Delhi and NCR. (Hon'ble SC order dated 29.10.2018)
- iv. Introduction of BS VI compliant vehicles across the country since April, 2020.
- v. Department of Heavy Industry is providing subsidy on e-vehicles under Faster Adoption and Manufacture of (Hybrid &) Electric Vehicles in India (FAME -II India) scheme.
- vi. Operationalization of Expressways & Highways to divert non-destined traffic.

6. Measures for control of industrial emission:

- i. Ban on use of pet coke and furnace oil as fuel in NCR States since October 24, 2017 and ban on use of imported pet coke in the country since July 26, 2018, with exception for use in permitted processes.
- ii. Introduction of cleaner / alternate fuels like gaseous fuel (CNG, LPG etc.), ethanol blending.
- iii. Shifting of industries to clean fuel and installation of OCEMS in red category industries in Delhi-NCR is in progress.
- iv. Notification regarding SO₂ and NO_x emission standards have been issued for Thermal Power Plants.
- v. Promotion of policies such as 5-10% use of biomass pellets with coal for power generation in thermal power plants and 10% ethanol blending in transport fuels by 2022.
- vi. Development of low carbon strategies across sectors such as phasing out older coal based power plants, compliance of standards, City Gas Distribution (CGD) network, emphasis on improved power reliability in urban areas, etc.

vii. Shifting of all operational brick kilns to zig-zag technology in Delhi and NCR.

7. Measure for control of Emissions from Construction and Demolition Waste, Solid Waste, Plastic Waste, E- Waste, Biomedical Waste and Hazardous Waste:

- i. 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.
- ii. Bio-mining of three dumpsites at Bhalswa, Okhla and Ghazipur is being carried out and is under progress.
- iii. Notifications regarding dust mitigation measures for construction and demolition activities have been issued.
- iv. Increased capacity of Construction & Demolition (C&D) waste processing units along with notification of C & D Waste Management Rules.
- v. Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) for plastic and e-waste management.

8. Measures for control of emissions from Firecrackers: Introduction of green crackers with low emission and noise levels. Green Crackers has 30% potential reduction of PM and gaseous emissions compared to conventional firework.

9. Measures for control of emissions from Stubble Burning:

- i. Under 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', agricultural machines and equipment for in-situ crop residue management are promoted with 50% subsidy to the individual farmers and 80% subsidy for establishment of Custom Hiring Centres.
- ii. Central Government had launched a Scheme 'Promotion of Agricultural Mechanization for In-Situ Management of Crop Residue in the State of Punjab, Haryana, and Uttar Pradesh & NCT of Delhi'.
- iii. Sustainable Alternative Towards Affordable Transportation (SATAT) has been launched as an initiative to set up Compressed Bio-Gas (CBG) production plants and make CBG available in the market for use in automotive fuels.
