

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

**RAJYA SABHA**  
**UNSTARRED QUESTION No. 199**  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 08.12.2022

**Air Quality levels in Delhi**

199. SHRI MUKUL BALKRISHNA WASNIK:

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

- (a) the details of the number of days classified as good so far in Delhi in the year 2022 as per the Air Quality Index;
- (b) whether Government is satisfied with the air quality levels in Delhi; and
- (c) if not, the steps Government has taken to improve the quality of air in Delhi in the nearfuture, the details thereof?

**ANSWER**

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

(a) to (c)

Air Quality Index(AQI) of Delhi indicates that there were 174 Good days in 2022 till 30<sup>th</sup> November. The number of good days has increased to 174 days in comparison to the data of year 2016 with the number of 'Good', 'Satisfactory' and 'Moderate' days i.e. 110 days. Various comprehensive steps are being taken by the Government to control pollution from various sources; especially, the identified regional sources such as vehicular sector, industrial sector, stubble burning, and others which have shown a gradual improvement in air quality. These actions have had a positive impact on air quality and improvement was noted in the year 2021 as CAAQMS data for Delhi reveals that annual concentration of PM has decreased gradually since 2016. Despite increase in number of vehicles, growing population, increased industries activities and adverse meteorology, 27% reduction in PM<sub>10</sub> and 22% in PM<sub>2.5</sub> in Year 2021 w.r.t 2016 in Delhi was observed.

The steps taken by the Government to improve the quality of air in Delhi is given as **Annexure I**.

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### Steps taken by Government to improve the quality of air in Delhi

Various steps have been taken for monitoring and management of air quality for reducing air pollution in Delhi. These are as follows:

#### Vehicular Emission

- Leap frogging 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.
- Introduction of BS VI compliant vehicles across the country since April, 2020.
- Development of Expressways and Highways to reduce fuel consumption and pollution.
- Eastern Peripheral Expressway & Western Peripheral Expressway have been operationalized to divert non destined traffic from Delhi.
- Environment Protection Charges (EPC) have been imposed on diesel vehicles with engine capacity of 2000cc and above in Delhi NCR.
- Introduction of cleaner/alternate fuels like CNG, LPG, ethanol blending in petrol.
- Promotion of public transport and improvements in roads and building of more bridges to ease congestion on roads.
- Network of metro rails for public transport are enhanced and more cities are covered.
- Ban on 10-year-old diesel vehicles and 15-year-old vehicles in Delhi NCR.
- Faster Adoption and Manufacturing of Electric Vehicles (FAME) -2 schemes has been rolled out.
- Permit requirement for electric vehicles has been exempted.

#### Industrial Emission

- Ban on use of pet coke and furnace oil in NCR, use of pet coke in processes in cement plants, lime kilns and calcium carbide manufacturing units.
- Stringent emission norms for Coal based Thermal Power Plants (TPPs).
- Shifting of industrial units to PNG/cleaner fuel in Delhi
- Installation of online continuous emission monitoring devices in highly polluting industries.
- Shifting of brick kilns in Delhi-NCR to zigzag technology for reduction of pollution

#### Air Pollution due to Dust and Burning of Waste

- Notifications of 6 waste management rules covering solid waste, plastic waste, e-waste, bio-medical waste, C&D waste and hazardous waste.
- Setting up infrastructure such as waste processing plants.
- Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) for plastic and e-waste management.
- Ban on burning of biomass/garbage.

#### Monitoring of Ambient Air Quality

- Expansion of air quality monitoring network of manual as well as continuous monitoring stations under programmes such as National Air Monitoring Programme (NAMP).
- Initiation of pilot projects to assess alternate ambient monitoring technologies such as low-cost sensors and satellite-based monitoring.

### Monitoring the Implementation of NCAP

- Government has launched NCAP as a national level as a national-level strategy outlining the actions for reducing the levels of air pollution at city and regional scales in India. City specific air action plans have been rolled out for implementation in 132 NACs and MPCs
- Activities in these cities include strengthening of ambient air quality network, source apportionment studies, dust mitigation equipment, composting units, infrastructure for non-motorized transport, shifting to clean energy in unorganized sectors, etc.
- The NCAP focuses on multi-sectoral sources of pollution including power plants, industries, vehicles, open burning of waste, construction & demolition activities, etc.; inter-Ministerial coordination for convergence of actions and interventions; and partnership with Institutes of National repute and International Agencies as Knowledge Partners.
- City specific action plans are regularly monitored by committees at Central; Apex, Steering, Monitoring and implementation committee; at State; Steering, implementation committee and at City level Implementation and Monitoring Committee.
- Implementation of Air Quality Early Warning System for Delhi, Kanpur and Lucknow. The system provides alerts for taking timely actions.
- Public Complaints regarding air pollution issues in Delhi NCR are taken through ‘Sameer App’, ‘Emails’ (Aircomplaints.cpcb@gov.in) and ‘Social Media Networks’ (Facebook and Twitter).
- PRANA a portal for monitoring implementation of NCAP has been launched.

### Other Actions

- Government is promoting people’s participation and awareness building among citizens for environmental conservation through Green Good 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.
- Extension of UjawalaYojana to ensure shifting to cleaner fuel.
- Swatch Bharat Mission and Waste Management initiatives.
- The Commission for Air Quality Management in NCR and Adjoining Areas (CAQM) has come out with a policy to curb air pollution in NCR, along with a standard list of approved fuels for NCR for industrial and other applications.