GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION No. 1792
TO BE ANSWERED ON 16.03.2023

Air pollution in Begusarai, Bihar

1792. SHRI RAKESH SINHA:

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

(a) the top 10 air polluted districts in the country;
(b) the number of districts in the country facing critical stage in terms of air pollution;
(c) whether it is a fact that air pollution level of Begusarai in the State of Bihar has reached critical stage;
(d) the main reasons for deterioration of air quality in Begusarai in the recent years; and
(e) whether Central Government has issued guidelines to the concerned States regarding critical pollution levels?

ANSWER

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

(a) & (b)
Government has identified 131 cities (including 123 non-attainment cities exceeding National Ambient Air Quality Standards) in the country under National Clean Air Programme for taking sustained actions for improving their air quality. Out of the 131 cities, 95 cities have shown improvement in air quality in terms of Particulate Matter 10 (PM10) concentrations in FY 2021-22 with respect to base year FY 2017-18. 20 cities have met the NAAQS in the year 2021-22. Details of air quality status of 131 cities are enclosed as Annexure-I.

(c) to (e)
The air quality index (AQI) of Begusarai, Bihar reveals that during 2022, out of 147 days, 81 days were under Good to Moderate category and 66 days were under Poor to Severe category. The number of days in different category of AQI of Begusarai is given at Annexure – II. The data trend shows that Begusarai has similar air quality as it is in many cities of the Indo-Gangetic Plain (IGP).

The Government has launched National Clean Air Programme (NCAP) as a long-term, time-bound programme to reduce air pollution in a comprehensive manner with target to achieve upto 40% reduction in PM10 concentration level by the year 2025-2026 w.r.t. baseline of 2017-18. City specific clean air action plans under NCAP have been prepared and rolled out for implementation in these 131 non-attainment/million plus cities by the concerned stakeholders including State Governments. The specific clean air action plans target the city specific air polluting sources viz. vehicular emission, road dust, biomass/crop/garbage/MSW burning, construction activities, industrial emission and other city specific sources etc.

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Ambient Air Quality status of 131 Non-Attainment Cities under NCAP

States	Sl. No.	Cities	2017-2018	2021-2022
			Ambient Air Quality status of 131 Non-Attainment Cities under NCAP (Integrated Annual Average Concentration of PM$_{10}$)		
			Average concentration (F.Y.) of PM$_{10}$ (µg/m^3)	Average concentration (F.Y.) of PM$_{10}$ (µg/m^3)
Andhra Pradesh	1	Anantpur	78	52
	2	Chittur	70	49
	3	Eluru	72	65
	4	Guntur	66	58
	5	Kadapa	75	54
	6	Kurnool	79	61
	7	Nellore	64	55
	8	Ongole	65	52
	9	Rajamahendravaram	85	68
	10	Srikakulam	69	75
	11	Vijayawada	91	67
	12	Visakhapatnam	76	98
	13	Vizhianagaram	72	71
Assam	14	Guwahati	103	103
	15	Nagaon	82	104
	16	Nalbari	87	99
	17	Silchar	49	45
	18	Sivasagar	73	47
Bihar	19	Patna*	172	145
	20	Gaya*	79	97
	21	Muzaffarpur*	147	153
Chandigarh	22	Chandigarh*	114	97
Chattisgarh	23	Korba	57	61
	24	Durg Bhilainagar	86	58
	25	Raipur	70	61
Delhi	26	Delhi*	241	196
Gujarat	27	Ahmedabad	164	113
	28	Rajkot	150	116
	29	Surat	130	100
	30	Vadodara	133	121
Haryana	31	Faridabad*	-	209
Himachal Pradesh	32	Baddi	174	132
	33	Damtal	55	64
	34	Kala Amb	118	114

States	Sl. No.	Cities	2017-2018 Average concentration (F.Y.) of PM_{10} ($\mu g/m^3$)	2021-2022 Average concentration (F.Y.) of PM_{10} ($\mu g/m^3$)
	35	Nalagarh	146	84
	36	Paonta Sahib	84	90
	37	Parwanoo	66	35
	38	Sunder Nagar	78	47
Jammu&Kashmir	39	Jammu	157	170
	40	Srinagar	-	111
Jharkhand	41	Dhanbad*	315	235
	42	Jamshedpur*	135	110
	43	Ranchi*	141	110
Karnataka	44	Bengaluru	92	67
	45	Devangere	74	57
	46	Gulburga / Kalaburagi	55	84
	47	Hubli-Dharwad	79	68
Madhya Pradesh	48	Bhopal	112	116
	49	Dewas	83	81
	50	Gwalior	126	109
	51	Indore	82	103
	52	Jabalpur	101	115
	53	Sagar	73	79
	54	Ujjain	93	114
Maharashtra	55	Aurangabad	75	86
	56	Akola	111	64
	57	Amravati	102	66
	58	Badlapur	160	94
	59	Chandrapur	118	104
	60	Greater Mumbai	161	106
	61	Jalgaon	70	59
	62	Jalna	99	93
	63	Kolhapur	89	81
	64	Latur	82	57
	65	Nagpur	100	68
	66	Nashik	82	59
	67	Navi Mumbai	88	97
	68	Pune	102	85

Ambient Air Quality status of 131 Non-Attainment Cities under NCAP
(Integrated Annual Average Concentration of PM_{10})

States	Sl. No.	Cities	2017-2018 Average concentration (F.Y.) of PM_{10} ($\mu g/m^3$)	2021-2022 Average concentration (F.Y.) of PM_{10} ($\mu g/m^3$)
	69	Sangli	87	60
	70	Solapur	81	60
	71	Thane	138	130
	72	Ulhasnagar	153	77
	73	Vasai virar	-	174
Meghalaya	74	Byrnihat	175	181
Nagaland	75	Dimapur	142	84
	76	Kohima	127	69
Odisha	77	Angul	97	97
	78	Balasore	84	74
	79	Bhubneshwar	85	95
	80	Cuttack	93	90
	81	Kalinga Nagar	109	114
	82	Rourkela	99	106
	83	Talcher	113	81
Punjab	84	Amritsar*	189	118
	85	Dera Baba Nanak*	79	71
	86	DeraBassi*	88	98
	87	Jalandhar*	178	130
	88	Khanna*	142	106
	89	Ludhiana*	168	150
	90	MandiGobindgarh*	148	122
	91	NayaNangal*	87	70
	92	Patiala*	106	109
Rajasthan	93	Jaipur	172	126
	94	Alwar	152	112
	95	Jodhpur	189	161
	96	Kota	139	112
	97	Udaipur	127	122
Tamil Nadu	98	Chennai	66	57
	99	Madurai	72	53
	100	Trichy	88	45
	101	Tuticorin	123	67
Telangana	102	Hyderabad	110	88
	103	Nalgonda	59	70

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(Integrated Annual Average Concentration of PM_{10})

States	Sl. No.	Cities	2017-2018	2021-2022
			Average concentration (F.Y.) of PM_{10} ($\mu g/m^3$)	Average concentration (F.Y.) of PM_{10} ($\mu g/m^3$)
	104	Patencheru	74	76
	105	Sangareddy	85	83
Uttar Pradesh	106	Agra*	202	146
	107	Allahabad*	169	119
	108	Ghaziabad*	285	216
	109	Kanpur*	227	170
	110	Lucknow*	253	148
	111	Meerut*	159	186
	112	Varanasi*	230	114
	113	Anpara*	175	154
	114	Bareily*	207	175
	115	Firozabad*	247	137
	116	Gajraula*	204	155
	117	Gorakpur*	150	122
	118	Jhansi*	109	128
	119	Khurja*	195	173
	120	Moradabad*	222	155
	121	Noida*	229	203
	122	Raebareli*	145	112
Uttarakhand	123	Dehradun	250	146
	124	Kashipur	99	119
	125	Rishikesh	129	117
West Bengal	126	Asansol*	147	112
	127	Barrackpore*	86	85
	128	Durgapur*	m150	168
	129	Haldia*	92	94
	130	Howrah*	139	125
	131	Kolkata*	147	105

Note:- *Cities comes Indo-Gangetic Plain (IGP)

➢ 95 Cities out of 131 non-attainment cities are showing reduction in PM_{10} concentrations.
➢ 20 Cities are meeting NAAQS standards (60 $\mu g/m^3$) for PM_{10} concentrations.
➢ 33 cities out of 131 non-attainment cities are showing no reduction in PM_{10} concentrations.
➢ Percentage reduction in PM10 conc. is in the range of 1-50%.
➢ 41 Cities are in Indo-Gangetic Plain (IGP).

Number of days in different category of Air Quality Index in Begusarai, Bihar during 2022

Year	Good (0–50)	Satisfactory (51–100)	Moderate (101–200)	Poor (201–300)	Very Poor (301–400)	Severe (>401)	Good days (Good+ Satisfactory + Moderate)	Days days (Poor +Very Poor+Severe)	Total days
2022	20	36	25	9	28	29	81	66	147