

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION No. 1803
TO BE ANSWERED ON 16.03.2023

Rural ambient air quality monitoring stations

1803. DR. AMAR PATNAIK:

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

- (a) whether Government has directed States to establish rural monitoring stations to monitor ambient air quality, if so, the details thereof and if not, reasons therefor;
- (b) whether Government is aware of the progress of the FY 2022–23 request for the installation of at least 10 rural air pollution monitoring stations in each State under National Air Quality Monitoring Programme (NAMP), if so, the details thereof and if not, reasons therefor; and
- (c) whether any funds have been allocated/disbursed to State(s) for funding rural stations under NAMP, if so, State/UT-wise details thereof and if not, reasons therefor?

ANSWER

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

(a) to (c)

Ambient air quality monitoring network of the country presently consists of 1340 stations (Manual + CAAQM Stations) at present, covering 489 cities in 28 States and 7 Union Territories (UT). The rural network consists of 26 manual stations in 26 villages covering 1 state & 1 UT.

Government has proposed to augment the manual monitoring stations from 818 to 1936 by FY 2025-26 to monitor ambient air quality under National Air Quality Monitoring Programme (NAMP). Accordingly, Central Pollution Control Board in association with State Pollution Control Boards /Pollution Control Committees has established 910 NAMP stations (manual) till date. Further, it is proposed to set-up 100 monitoring stations in the rural areas and 150 CAAQMS under National Clean Air Programme (NCAP) with an average of 2–3 stations in each city to be installed, prioritizing the Indo-Gangetic plain by 2024.

The expansion of air quality monitoring network is a continuous process and has been already planned and more cities are expected to be added soon. The expansion is being done in a phase wise manner as per criteria evolved for ambient air quality monitoring network starting with non-attainment cities, mega cities, million plus / metropolitan cities, cities in indo-

gangetic plain, uncovered district headquarters, industrial city, coastal city, ecologically sensitive areas and rural areas.

In the FY 2021-22 an amount of Rs. 2,09,64,000/- has been released for the establishment of new manual stations which includes 17 rural areas.
