

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

RAJYA SABHA
STARRED QUESTION NO. 79
TO BE ANSWERED ON 27.07.2023

India's ranking in clean environment

*79. SHRI NARAIN DASS GUPTA

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

- (a) whether it is a fact that India's ranking in terms of clean environment is continuously decimated globally year by year and presently India is ranked last in the list of world's 180 countries in terms of clean environment;
- (b) whether government is considering over the root causes concerning this fact. If not, the reasons therefor; and
- (c) steps and measures taken by the Government for a cleaner environment and to improve the image of the country globally on this front, details thereof?

ANSWER

MINISTER FOR ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE
(SHRI BHUPENDER YADAV)

(A) to (c): A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement referred to in parts (a) to (c) of Rajya Sabha Starred Question No. 79 due for reply on 27.07.2023 regarding India's ranking in clean environment by Shri. Narain Dass Gupta, Hon'ble Member of Parliament.

(a) & (b) Sir, there is no information available for any such global index or parameter by the name "Clean Environment" whereby countries are ranked globally. However, there are indices which rank the countries using environmental parameters. Some of these indices show India at a fairly good position and improving and some show decline in the position of India. The ministry has analysed some of these indices in depth and identified areas of improvement where feasible. It has also pointed out discrepancies/ inconsistencies or flawed assumptions.

(c) Various steps taken by the government for a cleaner environment and to improve the image of the country are as follows-

- In the context of Climate Change, India has updated its Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) to the United Nation Framework of Climate Change (UNFCCC) which includes-
 - Reduce Emission Intensity of its GDP by 45 percent by 2030, from 2005 level. India's emission intensity of GDP reduced by 24% between 2005 and 2016
 - Achieve about 50 percent cumulative electric power installed capacity from non-fossil fuel-based energy resources by 2030.
 - To combat climate change and propagate a healthy and sustainable way of living based on traditions and values of conservation and moderation, a mass movement namely "Lifestyle for Environment" is launched.
- India's renewable energy capacity has increased by about 290 % in the last 7-8 years.
- The country has also achieved the target of 43%¹ of the electric capacity from non-fossil-fuel sources nine years ahead of the deadline. Through the National Hydrogen Mission, India has moved towards an environment-friendly energy source. This will help India and many countries of the world to achieve their goal of a net zero carbon footprint. As of March 2023, the installed capacity of the country was 415.4 GW, which comprises 236.68 GW from thermal, 6.78GW from nuclear, and 171.8 GW from renewable energy sources. Of these clean energy capacity, 42.1 GW is from hydro, 66.8GW from solar, 42.6 GW from wind, and 4.7 GW from small hydro. India now has the 4th largest wind and Solar power generating capacity in the world.
- A joint effort was taken by India and France to conceive action-oriented, member-driven, collaborative platform, The International Solar Alliance (ISA), for increased deployment of solar energy technologies as a means for bringing energy access, ensuring energy security, and driving energy transition in its member countries.
- India has joined the select group of fewer than 60 countries in the world and published its Long-Term Low-Carbon Development Strategy in UNFCCC during C_oP 27.
- The Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEF&CC) has launched the National Clean Air Programme (NCAP) in January, 2019 with an aim to improve air quality in 131 cities (non-attainment cities and Million Plus Cities) in 24 States/UTs by engaging all stakeholders. The programme envisages to achieve reductions up to 40% or achievement of National Ambient Air Quality Standards for Particulate Matter₁₀ (PM₁₀) concentrations by 2025-26. 95 cities showed improvement in PM concentration in FY 2021-22 in reference to 2017-18 & 20 cities are within the National

¹ Annual report 2020-21, MNRE

Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS) in FY 2021-22. To monitor air quality, till now 1,366 Monitoring Stations (910 Manual stations in 389 cities, 28 states & 7 UTs and 456 CAAQMS in 227 cities, 27 states & 4 UTs) have been installed.

- PRANA a portal for monitoring implementation of NCAP has been launched. Implementing Swachh Vayu Survekshan (SVS) 2022 which is the evaluation of self-assessment report of NCAP cities and award top 9 best performing cities under SVS-2022.
- The Commission for Air Quality Management in NCR and Adjoining Area (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.
- Levels of PM2.5 and PM10 in Delhi had registered a dip of almost 30% since 2016 while the number of clean air days had increased by almost 50% during the same period.
- Country has leapfrogged from BS-IV to BS-VI norms for fuel and vehicles from 1st April, 2020. Sustainable Alternative Towards Affordable Transportation (SATAT) has been launched as an initiative to set up Compressed Bio-Gas (CBG) production plant and make CBG available in the market for use in automotive fuels.
- Installation of Vapour Recovery System (VRS) in new and existing petrol pumps selling gasoline >100kl per month in million plus cities and those selling >300kl per month in cities with population between 1 lakh to 1 million. Subsidy on E-vehicles under Faster Adoption and manufacture of (Hybrid &) Electric Vehicles in India.
- Notification regarding SO2 and NOx emission standards have been issued for Thermal Power Plants.
- India added ten wetlands to the List of Wetlands of International Importance (also called Ramsar Sites) within the framework of the Ramsar Convention, taking the total number of Ramsar Sites in India to incredible 75, the highest in Asia by August 2022.
- The government has taken a defining step to eliminate single use plastics. A ban has been imposed on identified single use plastic items from 1st July 2022.
- Ministry has initiated the work of Circular Economy. 11 Committees constituted for development of circular economy (CE) action plans for different categories of wastes have finalized CE Action Plans for 10 waste categories. EPR rules have been notified for 4 categories of waste a) Plastic waste, b) Waste tyre, c) Batteries, and E-Waste.
- The 'National Policy on Biofuels' notified by the Government in 2018 envisaged an indicative target of 20% ethanol blending in petrol by year 2030. However, the target of 10% blending under the programme has been achieved much ahead of the targeted timelines of November, 2022.
