

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

**RAJYA SABHA**  
**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2126**  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 21.12.2023

**Meeting air quality targets under NCAP**

2126. SHRI KAPIL SIBAL:  
SHRI. DIGVIJAYA SINGH:  
SHRI K.R.N. RAJESHKUMAR:

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

- (a) whether Government is aware of the threat posed by dangerously low air quality levels across major Indian cities;
- (b) whether Government is on track to meet its air quality targets under the National Clean Air Programme (NCAP) and if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the steps taken by Government towards improvement of the interpretation of satellite data, and towards including rural areas in PRANAM and similar air quality monitoring programmes?

**ANSWER**

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

**(a) and (b):**

Under National Air Quality Monitoring Programme (NAMP) of Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change (MoEF&CC), Ambient Air Quality Monitoring (AAQM) is carried out in 516 cities/towns in the country for various parameters concerning air pollution. In the year 2021, 137 cities have met National Ambient Air Quality Standard (NAAQS) for the parameter PM<sub>2.5</sub>, 105 cities have met National Standard for the parameter PM<sub>10</sub>, 362 cities have met National Standard for the parameter NO<sub>2</sub> and 379 cities have met the National Standard for the parameter SO<sub>2</sub>.

123 Non-Attainment Cities (NACs) have been identified in the country, wherein air pollution level in terms of PM<sub>10</sub> concentration exceeded the NAAQS, 2009 consecutively for a period of five years. To address the air pollution in NACs, MoEF&CC launched National Clean Air Programme (NCAP) in January, 2019 which is a long-term, time-bound national level strategy for prevention, control and abatement of air pollution. The programme covers 131 cities (123 NACs and 8 Million Plus Cities), wherein funds are provided to respective cities to implement City Action Plan (CAP) to improvement of air quality. Out of 123 NACs, 41 cities are Million Plus Cities (MPCs).

Under NCAP, it has been envisaged to achieve target of 20 to 30% reduction in Particulate Matter concentrations by 2024 in 131 cities of 24 States/UTs with respect to base year 2017. Subsequently, the target has been revised to achieve up to 40% reduction or achieve National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS) in terms PM concentrations by 2025-26.

Due to implementation of city action plans under NCAP, 90 cities out of 131 cities have shown improvement in air quality in terms of annual PM10 concentrations in FY 2022-23 with respect to the baseline of FY 2017-18. 15 cities have met National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS) for PM10 (60 µg/m<sup>3</sup>) in FY 2022-23. Details of progress made by the cities in meeting air quality targets in FY 2022-23 of 131 cities are enclosed at **Annexure I**

**(c):** CPCB sponsored an R&D project in IIT Delhi to carry out studies for co-relating the estimation of PM2.5 from satellite-based Aerosol Optical Depth (AOD), which cannot, however, be used for regulatory purposes.

Under National Air Quality Monitoring Programme (NAMMP), guidelines for criteria for establishing air quality monitoring stations based on the population of a city/town, have been issued by Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB). Based on the guidelines, ambient air quality monitoring is carried out in 516 cities/towns in the country having 1449 air quality monitoring stations out of which 26 monitoring stations are part of rural areas.

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Annexure I

**Details of progress made by 131 cities in the improvement of air quality in the FY 2022-23 as against FY 2017-18**

S. No.	No. of Cities/Towns	Percentage improvement in PM <sub>10</sub> concentrations in FY 2022-23 as against FY 2017-18 (%)
1	15	>40
2	11	>30-40
3	23	>20-30
4	16	10-20
5	66	<10
<b>Total</b>	<b>131</b>	

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