

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

**RAJYA SABHA**  
**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1168**  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 05.12.2024

**Tackling air pollution in the cities**

1168. SHRI JOSE K. MANI:

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

- (a) Government's plan to address air pollution in metropolitan cities across the country;
- (b) the manner in which the National Clean Air Programme (NCAP) is being monitored to ensure its effectiveness in reducing pollution levels; and
- (c) whether there are any plans to promote cleaner technologies and electric vehicles on a larger scale to curb vehicular emissions?

**ANSWER**

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE  
(SHRI KIRTI VARDHAN SINGH)

**(a)&(b):** National Clean Air Programme (NCAP) was launched by Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC) in January 2019 with an aim to improve air quality in 130 cities (non-attainment cities and Million Plus Cities) including metropolitan cities in 24 States/UTs through implementation of National, State and City level clean air action plans. NCAP envisages reduction in PM10 levels up to 40% or achievement of national standards (60 microgram/cubic meter) by 2025-26.

In addition to this, NCAP emphasizes on implementation of City Action Plans (CAPs) through the convergence of resources from various Central Government schemes such as Swachh Bharat Mission, AMRUT, Smart City Mission, Urban Transport, PM E-Bus Sewa, SATAT, Nagar Van Yojana, Vehicle Scrapping Policy, FAME – II, SAMARTH – National Biomass Mission, National Bio-energy Programme and Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana are implemented throughout the Country contributing to reduction in air pollution. Some of the key steps taken by the Central Government for air quality management are placed at **Annexure I**.

National, State and City action plans have been prepared and are implemented by various stakeholders. The following Committees have been set up at National, State and City level for coordination, review and monitoring of progress of action plans under NCAP:

- (i). National Level
  - o Apex Committee

- Steering Committee
- Monitoring Committee
- Implementation Committee
- (ii). State Level
  - Steering Committee
  - Implementation Committee
- (iii). City Level
  - City level Implementation and Monitoring Committee

AQM cells have been constituted in ULBs of all 130 cities for ground level implementation of air quality management measures. SPCB nodal officers are assigned for providing technical support and CPCB nodal officers are assigned for field verification of implementation of City Action Plan. “PRANA” – Portal for Regulation of Air-pollution in Non-Attainment cities, has been developed as a portal for monitoring implementation of National Clean Air Programme (NCAP). PRANA endeavours to track physical as well as financial progress of cities under NCAP and disseminate information about the programme to public.

As per the annual performance assessment carried out for 2023-24, 97 cities out of 130 cities have shown improvement in air quality in terms of PM10 concentrations in FY 2023-24 as compared to base levels of 2017-18. 55 cities have achieved reduction of 20% and above in PM10 levels in 2023-24 with respect to the levels of 2017-18. Further, 18 cities conform to national ambient air quality standards in terms of Particular Matter concentrations during FY 2023-24.

**(c):** To address vehicular emission, Government of India introduced stringent fuel and vehicle emission norms, standards leap-frogging from BS-IV to BS-VI, fuel standards since 1st April, 2018 in NCT of Delhi and 1st April, 2020 in the rest of the country.

To promote electric mobility in public transport, Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA) has launched PM e-bus Sewa which provides financial support for deployment of 10,000 e-buses in 169 eligible cities including development or upgradation of bus depot infrastructure and behind-the-metre infrastructure.

Ministry of Heavy Industries (MHI) launched PM Electric Drive Revolution in Innovative Vehicle Enhancement (PM E-DRIVE) Scheme on 29th September, 2024 for promotion of electric mobility in country with an outlay of Rs. 10,900 crore for 2 years which provides subsidies / Demand incentives for e- 2 Wheelers, e-3Wheelers, e-ambulance, e- trucks and other emerging EVs, procurement of E- buses by public transport agencies and installing fast chargers for EVs. Further, Ministry of Heavy Industries (MHI) has notified PM e-Bus Sewa-PSM (Payment Security Mechanism) Scheme through Gazette notification S.O. 4711(E) on October 28, 2024. has an allocated budget of Rs. 3,435.33 crore to support deployment of more than 38,000 electric buses in the country.

Ministry of Finance provided the exemption of Customs duty for import of specified capital goods and machinery required for manufacture of lithium-ion cells for batteries used in electric vehicles. Department of Science & Technology (DST) brought out four detailed R&D roadmaps identifying technologies for battery, motor and power electronics for manufacture of electric vehicles in

digeneously in the country. Further, MAHA Electric Vehicle Mission has been launched under Anusandhan National Research Foundation (ANRF) to foster research and innovation in clean and greener technology.

The steps taken by the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways to promote adoption of Electric Vehicles (EVs) in the country are placed at **Annexure II**.

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**Key steps taken by the Central Government for air quality management:**

- i. Emission standards for more than 80 industries have been notified under Environment (Protection) Rules, 1986
- ii. Emission standards recently notified/ revised:
  - a) Thermal power plants
  - b) Diesel/petrol/CNG generator sets
  - c) Industrial boilers
  - d) Lime Kilns
  - e) Brick kilns and conversion of zig-zag technology
  - f) Calcinated pet-coke industry
  - g) Hot mix plants
- iii. Leapfrogging to Bharat Stage-VI (BS-VI) emissions norms from 1st April 2020
- iv. Vehicle Scrapping Policy, Rules for Registered Vehicle Scrapping Facilities and Automated Testing Stations by MoRTH
- v. Waste management rules for solid waste, plastic waste, hazardous waste, e-waste, battery waste, biomedical waste, 100% ash utilization by Thermal Power Plants
- vi. Market-based Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) regulations introduced for waste categories, viz. plastic packaging, e-waste, battery waste, waste tires & used oil
- vii. 12 identified Single-Use Plastics (SUP) having high littering potential and low utility were banned from 1st July, 2022
- viii. Mandate for utilization of minimum 5% of crop residue along with coal (pellets/brickettes) in thermal power plants in NCR and adjoining areas
- ix. Categorization of industrial areas as Critically and Severely Polluted Areas (CPAs/SPAs) based on Comprehensive Environmental Pollution Index (CEPI).

## Annexure II

### **Steps taken by the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways to promote adoption of Electric Vehicles (EVs):**

- i. Ministry of Road Transport and Highways, vide S.O. 5333(E) dated 18<sup>th</sup> October, 2018, has also granted exemption to the Battery operated Transport Vehicles and Transport Vehicles running on Ethanol and Methanol fuels from the requirements of permit.
- ii. Ministry of Road Transport and Highways, vide GSR 525(E) dated 2<sup>nd</sup> August, 2021 has exempted Battery Operated Vehicles from the payment of fees for the purpose of issue or renewal of registration certificate and assignment of new registration mark.
- iii. Ministry of Road Transport and Highways has issued a notification vide GSR 302(E) dated 18<sup>th</sup> April, 2023 to issue All India Tourist Permit for battery operated vehicles without payment of any permit fee.
- iv. Ministry of Road Transport and Highways vide G.S.R 749(E) dated 7<sup>th</sup> August, 2018, has notified the registration mark for Battery Operated Vehicles to be in Yellow Colour on Green background for the transport vehicles and, for all other cases, in White colour on Green background.
- v. Ministry of Road Transport and Highways has notified GSR 167(E) dated 1<sup>st</sup> March 2019 for retro-fitment of hybrid electric system or electric kit to vehicles and their compliance standards shall be as per AIS 123.
- vi. Ministry of Road Transport and Highways has issued an advisory dated 17<sup>th</sup> July, 2019 to all States and UTs regarding incentivization of electric vehicles and induction of electric vehicles in shared mobility and public transport operations.
- vii. Ministry of Road Transport and Highways has issued an advisory dated 12<sup>th</sup> August, 2020 to all States and UTs regarding sale and registration of Electric Vehicles without batteries.

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