

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1169
TO BE ANSWERED ON 05.12.2024

Pollution control

1169. DR. KANIMOZHI NVM SOMU:

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

- (a) the steps taken by Government to control pollution in various cities of the country and the result thereof;
- (b) the details of funds allocated for pollution control, State-wise;
- (c) the reasons and the steps taken to clean toxic foam floating at the Yamuna and other rivers; and
- (d) the steps taken by the Government to export paddy straw to other countries and also to educate farmers to use stubble sustainably instead of burning down every year?

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 in 24 States/UTs through implementation of National, State and City level clean air action plans. NCAP envisages reduction in PM10 level up to 40% or achievement of national standards (60 microgram/cubic meter) by 2025-26.

NCAP focuses on preparation and implementation of national level action plan, state level action plans and city-specific plans of the targeted 130 cities. The national level plan includes the action plans, schemes/programmes of 07 line ministries namely, Ministry of Power (MoP), Ministry of Road, Transport & Highways (MoRTH), Ministry of Housing & Urban Affairs (MoHUA), Ministry of Non-Renewable Energy (MNRE), Ministry of Heavy Industries (MHI), Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers' Welfare (MoAFW) and Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas (MoPNG). All 24 States/UTs covered under NCAP have prepared their State Action Plans. All 130 cities have also prepared their City action plans to address air pollution in various sectors viz. vehicular emissions, road dust, construction, solid waste management and industrial pollution. Further, Annual Action Plans and Hotspot Action Plans have also been prepared by the Cities.

Performance based incentive grant is provided under NCAP to cities for funding the critical gap. 48 Million Plus Cities/ Urban Agglomerations are funded under XVth Finance Commission Million Plus City Challenge fund as an air quality performance grant, and remaining 82 cities are

funded by MoEFCC. An amount of Rs. 19,614 crore has been allocated for 130 cities during 2019-20 till 2025-26. Rs. 11,211 crore has been released till 2023-24. State-wise details of funds allocated under NCAP for improvement of air quality are provided at **Annexure-I**.

In addition to this, NCAP emphasises on implementation of City Action Plans (CAPs) through the convergence of resources from various Central Government schemes such as Swachh Bharat Mission (Urban), AMRUT, Smart City Mission, SATAT, and Nagar Van Yojana, as well as resources from State Govts./ UT administration and agencies like Municipal Corporations and Urban Development authorities.

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 Particulate Matter concentrations during FY 2023-24. Details of improvement in PM10 concentrations of 130 Cities in FY 2023-24 w.r.t. FY 2017-18 are enclosed as **Annexure-II**

Some of the key steps taken by Central Government. to improve the air quality in the country are enclosed at **Annexure-III**.

(c):

Based on the water quality monitoring, cause analysis and visits carried out by the CPCB officials for river Yamuna, foam on river Yamuna is formed especially at Okhla Barrage due to sudden fall of water and agitation of foaming agents present in the wastewater. Further the steps taken by Government for prevention and control of pollution in rivers across the country is enclosed as **Annexure-IV**.

(d) :

Government has undertaken various measures for both ex-situ and in-situ management of paddy straw in NCT of Delhi and the States of Punjab, Haryana and Uttar Pradesh, which include:

- i. Scheme launched by Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare (MoA&FW) in 2018 for providing subsidy for purchase of crop residue management machinery and establishment of custom hiring centres (CHCs) in NCT of Delhi and the States of Punjab, Haryana and Uttar Pradesh for in-situ management of paddy straw.
- ii. Grant of one-time financial support by Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) under Environment Protection Charge funds for establishment of pelletization and Torrefaction plants to promote utilisation of paddy straw.
- iii. A scheme launched by Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas (MoPNG) to provide financial assistance to Compressed Bio-gas producers for procurement of biomass aggregation equipment for ex-situ management of paddy straw.

For education of the farmers to use stubble sustainably through various ex-situ applications, extensive IEC activities / Awareness programs have been undertaken by the State Governments/GNCTD through electronic media, social media, print media, fixing of hoardings, audio-visual clips on TV, broadcast of radio jingles, PA system mounted vans, District and State level 'kharifgosthi', 'Nyay Panchayat level kharifgosthi', demonstration camps etc.

Annexure-I

State-wise allocation during the FY 2019-20 to 2025-26 under National Clean Air Programme (NCAP)

(Rs. in crore)

S N	State	FY 2019-20	FY 2020-21	FY 2021-22	FY 2022-23	FY 2023-24	FY 2024-25	FY 2025-26	Grand Total
1	Tamilnadu	0.06	236.00	117	126.59	135.05	142.45	144.45	901.6
2	Odisha	6.18	6.04	3.64	42.81	22.47	30.84	30.84	142.82
3	Madhya Pradesh	20.6	300.52	156	170.46	190.72	201.35	205.35	1245
4	Chandigarh	8.28	5.00	4.61	10.24	8.94	9.89	9.89	56.85
5	Rajasthan	18.12	284.80	141	166.29	171.76	178.25	180.25	1140.47
6	Himachal Pradesh	0.24	10.00	0.48	3.99	3.54	5.00	5.00	28.25
7	West Bengal	6	432.00	211	229.19	275.15	270.58	274.58	1698.5
8	Nagaland	0.12	6.00	0.93	3.72	6.00	10.43	10.43	37.63
9	Gujarat	12	405.00	204	212.00	223.00	236.00	241.00	1533
10	Punjab	12.48	105.04	45	71.04	109.49	100.55	102.55	546.15
11	Bihar	10.2	211.00	107.4	116.78	123.54	139.29	142.29	850.5
12	Uttar Pradesh	48.47	726.16	376.31	567.39	595.34	678.72	686.72	3679.11
13	Maharashtra	39.85	804.40	411.9	488.15	515.88	500.88	509.88	3270.94
14	Telangana	11	236.76	118.79	124.01	133.48	140.48	143.48	908
15	Assam	0.36	12.00	0	23.56	19.60	35.64	35.64	126.8
16	Uttrakhand	0.12	11.00	5.67	24.78	32.42	32.49	32.49	138.97
17	Chhattisgarh	12.06	108.00	54	58.16	61.88	67.74	68.74	430.58
18	Jharkhand	6	159.00	80	83.00	88.00	93.00	95.00	604
19	Meghalaya		3.00	0	0.50	3.00	3.93	3.93	14.36
20	Jammu & Kashmir	0.12	8.00	12.84	44.83	60.86	67.46	67.46	261.57
21	Haryana		48.00	25	25.00	27.00	28.00	29.00	182
22	Andhra Pradesh	6.36	152.28	79.48	103.64	129.35	122.23	123.23	716.57
23	Karnataka	6.3	280.52	147.32	174.48	184.58	189.60	192.60	1175.4
24	Delhi		0.00	11.25	25.01	9.95	36.21	36.21	118.63
	Total	224.92	4550.52	2313.62	2895.62	3131	3321.01	3371.01	19807.7

Details of improvement in PM₁₀ concentrations of 130 Cities in FY 2023-24 w.r.t. FY 2017-18

S. No.	Cities	PM ₁₀ concentrations in 2017-18 (µg/m ³) (Annual Avg.)	PM ₁₀ concentrations in 2023-24 (µg/m ³) (Annual Avg.)	Percentage reduction in PM ₁₀ concentrations in 2023-24 with respect to the year 2017-18 (%)
1.	Varanasi*	230	73	68
2.	Bareilly	207	80	61
3.	Firozabad	247	102	59
4.	Dehradun	250	109	56
5.	Dhanbad*	315	138	56
6.	Thoothukudi	123	57	54
7.	Nalagarh	146	68	53
8.	Moradabad	222	115	48
9.	Khurja	195	104	47
10.	Trichy*	88	47	47
11.	Kohima	127	68	46
12.	Lucknow*	253	137	46
13.	Kanpur*	227	125	45
14.	Kadapa	75	42	44
15.	Sibsagar	73	41	44
16.	Sunder Nagar	78	44	44
17.	Agra*	202	116	43
18.	Mumbai*	161	94	42
19.	Rishikesh	129	76	41
20.	Parwanoo	66	39	41
21.	Byrnihat	175	104	41
22.	Ahmedabad*	164	98	40
23.	Ghaziabad*	285	172	40
24.	Rajkot*	150	92	39
25.	Jalandhar	178	111	38
26.	Raebareli	145	91	37
27.	Amritsar*	189	119	37
28.	Baddi	174	111	36
29.	Kolkata*	147	94	36
30.	Jammu	157	101	36

31.	Silchar	49	32	35
32.	Jodhpur*	189	124	34
33.	Vijayawada*	91	61	33
34.	Naya Nangal	87	59	32
35.	Dimapur	142	97	32
36.	Khanna	142	100	30
37.	Durgapur	150	106	29
38.	Kurnool	79	56	29
39.	Pathankot/Dera Baba	79	56	29
40.	Vadodara*	133	95	29
41.	Allahabad*	169	124	27
42.	Asansol*	147	108	27
43.	Srinagar	132**	96	27
44.	Hyderabad*	110	81	26
45.	Gorakhpur	150	111	26
46.	Anantapur	78	59	24
47.	Ranchi*	141	107	24
48.	Bangalore*	92	70	24
49.	Akola	111	85	23
50.	Bhilai*	86	68	21
51.	Surat*	130	103	21
52.	Noida	229	182	21
53.	Howrah	139	111	20
54.	Thane	138	111	20
55.	Latur	82	66	20
56.	Nellore	64	52	19
57.	Gajraula	204	167	18
58.	Faridabad*	229**	190	17
59.	Alwar	152	127	16
60.	Chittoor	70	59	16
61.	Kala Amb	118	100	15
62.	Gobindgarh	148	126	15
63.	Amravati	102	87	15
64.	Patiala	106	91	14
65.	Jaipur*	172	148	14
66.	Ongole	65	56	14
67.	Delhi	241	208	14
68.	Chandrapur	118	102	14
69.	Nashik*	82	72	12

70.	Jhansi	109	96	12
71.	Sangli	87	77	11
72.	Devanagere	74	66	11
73.	Kota*	139	124	11
74.	Rajahmundry	85	76	11
75.	Hubli-Dharwad	79	71	10
76.	Jabalpur*	101	91	10
77.	Ujjain	93	84	10
78.	Guntur	66	61	8
79.	Kalinga Nagar	109	101	7
80.	Meerut*	159	149	6
81.	Nagpur*	100	94	6
82.	Eluru	72	68	6
83.	Madurai*	72	68	6
84.	Damtal	55	52	5
85.	Haldia	92	87	5
86.	Anpara	175	166	5
87.	Badlapur	160	152	5
88.	Udaipur	127	121	5
89.	Sangareddy	85	81	5
90.	Chennai*	66	63	5
91.	Ludhiana*	168	161	4
92.	Pune*	102	98	4
93.	Jamshedpur*	135	130	4
94.	Kolhapur	89	86	3
95.	Ulhasnagar	153	149	3
96.	Srikakulam	69	68	1
97.	Kashipur	99	98	1
98.	Talcher	113	113	0
99.	Nalgonda	59	59	0
100.	Bhopal*	112	113	-1
101.	Sagar	73	74	-1
102.	Vizianagaram	72	73	-1
103.	Chandigarh	114	116	-2
104.	Gulburga	55	56	-2
105.	Jalna	99	102	-3
106.	Patna*	172	178	-3
107.	Korba	57	59	-4
108.	Paonta Sahib	84	90	-7
109.	Gwalior*	126	136	-8

110.	Raipur*	70	76	-9
111.	Navi Mumbai	88	98	-11
112.	Rourkela	99	111	-12
113.	Muzaffarpur	147	168	-14
114.	Barrackpore	86	99	-15
115.	Guwahati	103	119	-16
116.	Dera Bassi	88	102	-16
117.	Solapur	81	96	-19
118.	Dewas	83	99	-19
119.	Indore*	82	99	-21
120.	Vasai-Virar*	99	125	-26
121.	Nagaon	82	107	-30
122.	Aurangabad*	75	98	-31
123.	Gaya	79	104	-32
124.	Bhubaneswar	85	114	-34
125.	Jalgaon	70	97	-39
126.	Cuttack	93	129	-39
127.	Nalbari	87	127	-46
128.	Balasore	84	124	-48
129.	Visakhapatnam*	76	120	-58
130.	Angul	97	167	-72

* Cities are funded under XVth Finance Commission air quality grant (Million Plus City Challenge Fund)

** PM₁₀ levels in the FY 2017-18 for Faridabad and Srinagar are not available. PM₁₀ levels of FY 2020-21 for Faridabad and PM₁₀ levels of FY 2018-19 for Srinagar have been considered as a baseline.

Note: Patancheru non-attainment city has been merged with Hyderabad Urban Agglomeration and accordingly revised number of cities covered under NCAP is 130.

Measures taken by the Central Government to control pollution:

- 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 petcoke 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 utilisation by Thermal Power Plants
- vi. Market-based Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) regulations introduced for waste categories, viz. plastic packaging, e-waste, battery waste, waste tyres & 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 utilisation of minimum 5% of crop residue along with coal (pellets/briquettes) 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).

The steps taken by Government for prevention and control of pollution in rivers across the country are as detailed below:

- i. Govt. of India enacted the Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974 and the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 for protection of environment including water bodies.
- ii. The Central Pollution Control Board and State Pollution Control Boards (SPCBs) / Pollution Control Pollution Committees (PCCS) are implementing the provisions of both the Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974 and the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 to prevent and control pollution of aquatic resources.
- iii. SPCBs / PCCs have been directed under Section 18(1) (b) of the Water (Prevention & Control of Pollution) Act, 1974 to direct concerned agencies in the State/UT to develop infrastructure for sewage treatment.
- iv. Regulation of industrial Pollution is implemented through various provisions of the Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974 under Consent mechanism by the respective SPCB / PCC.
- v. Government of India stipulated General discharge standards and industry specific effluent discharge standards under Environment (Protection) Rules, 1986 with an aim to prevent pollution in the water bodies.
- vi. “Revised Guidelines on Idol Immersion in Water Bodies” are being implemented in the country with effect from January 01st, 2021.
- vii. The Online Continuous Effluent Monitoring Systems (OCEMS) are being installed by 17 categories of industries and Grossly Polluting Industries (GPIs) in the country as per directives issued by CPCB. This initiative provides real-time information on effluent quality, enabling the identification of non-complying units and the implementation of corrective actions.
- viii. CPCB is also periodically issuing directions to all the concerned departments in the States for management of sewage and waste water in accordance with the provisions notified under the Environment (Protection) Rules, 1986 and for ensuring proper operation of existing STPs, Common Effluent Treatment Plants (CETPs) and industrial pollution control, under Section 18 (1)(b) of the Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974 as well as under Section 5 of the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986.
- ix. CPCB has prepared guidelines for conservation and Zero Liquid Discharge (ZLD) in feasible industrial sectors, along with guidelines for the utilization of treated effluent in irrigation. Treated wastewater can be reused in various industrial sectors to reduce dependency on freshwater, enhance sustainability, and promote effective water resource management.
- x. “Indicative Guidelines for Restoration of Water Bodies” have been issued by CPCB in June, 2019 as a guidance to the Stakeholders for ensuring restoration/ rejuvenation of water bodies & circulated it to all the SPCBs/PCCs vide letters dated 18.06.2019 & 26.07.2019 and also uploaded in CPCB Website at <https://cpcb.nic.in/NGTMC/Ind-Guidelines-RestWaterBodies-10062019.pdf>
- xi. CPCB organized workshop on ‘Restoration of Water Bodies’ for stakeholders with aim to facilitate preparation and execution of action plans for restoration of water bodies and for ensuring compliance to Hon’ble National Green Tribunal (NGT).

- xii. For rejuvenation of Polluted River Stretches (PRS) identified in 2018, action plans were prepared by River Rejuvenation Committee (RRC) constituted by the respective State Government/ UT Administration, under the overall supervision and coordination of Principal Secretary, Environment of the concerned State/ Union Territory for bringing all the polluted river stretches identified by CPCB fit for bathing purposes (i.e. BOD < 3 mg/L and FC < 500 MPN/100 mL).
- xiii. Prepared action plans covers aspects such as Source control (Municipal sewage management, Industrial pollution control, Waste management), River catchment/Basin Management (Adoption of good irrigation practices, Utilization of treated sewage, Ground water recharge aspects), Flood Plain Zone protection and its management (Setting up of bio-diversity parks, Removal of encroachments, Rain water harvesting, Plantation on both sides of the river), Ecological/Environmental Flow (E-Flow) and Watershed management.
- xiv. Delhi Pollution Control Committee (DPCC) had issued Directions u/s 33 (A) of the Water Act, 1974 on 14.06.2021 regarding prohibition on Use of Non-BIS Soap & Detergents. In compliance to the said direction Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD) has issued instructions to all dhobi ghats to use soaps and detergents of BIS standard only.
