GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1171
TO BE ANSWERED ON 05.12.2024

Air Pollution in the country

1171. SMT. PRIYANKA CHATURVEDI:

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

(a) the number of deaths in the country due to air pollution-related causes since 2020, year-wise and State-wise;
(b) the number of cities in India with air quality lower than healthy levels during winter months, State-wise;
(c) the measures taken by Government to maintain the air quality standards to healthy levels, including by issuing guidelines to States;
(d) whether these measures have been effective in curbing air pollution to healthy levels; and
(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

ANSWER

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

(a)
There is no conclusive data available to establish a direct correlation of deaths due to air pollution. Air pollution is one of the many factors affecting respiratory ailments and associated diseases. Health is affected by cumulative impact of a number of factors, which include food habits, occupational habits, socio-economic status, medical history, immunity, heredity, etc., of the individuals apart from the environment.

(b)
Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change has notified National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS) in 2009 to protect public health and environment from air pollution. The status of air quality of cities during the year 2023 with respect to the National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS) are as below:

i. SO_2: 490 out of 492 cities are within NAAQS
ii. NO_2: 473 out of 493 cities are within NAAQS
iii. PM_{10}: 116 out of 505 cities are within NAAQS.
iv. $PM_{2.5}$: 214 out of 406 cities are within NAAQS.

(c), (d) and (e)

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.

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 (Urban), PM e-bus Sewa, 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

Various guidelines have been issued under NCAP namely

1. Guidelines for Release & utilization of funds under NCAP
2. Operational Guidelines for the implementation of the recommendations on Ambient Air Quality component in the Million Plus Challenge Fund for Million Plus cities/Urban Agglomerations
3. Guidelines for Ranking of Cities under National Clean Air Programme (NCAP) - "Swachh Vayu Survekshan"
4. Guidelines for Ambient Air Quality Monitoring

Some of the key measures taken by the Central Government for improvement in air quality are enclosed at **Annexure I.**

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 air quality improvement of 130 cities are enclosed at **Annexure-II.**

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Annexure – I

Measures taken by the 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) Calcinatedpetcoke 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)

Annexure-II

Improvement in PM_{10} concentrations of 130 Cities in FY 2023-24 w.r.t. FY 2017-18				
S. No.	**Cities**	**PM_{10} concentrations in 2017-18 (µg/m3) (Annual Avg.)**	**PM_{10} concentrations in 2023-24 (µg/m3) (Annual Avg.)**	**Percentage reduction in PM_{10} concentrations in 2023-24 with respect to the year 2017-18 (%)**
1.	Varanasi*	230	73	68
2.	Bareily	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)

** PM_{10} levels in the FY 2017-18 for Faridabad and Srinagar are not available. PM_{10} levels of FY 2020-21 for Faridabad and PM_{10} 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.

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