

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2775
TO BE ANSWERED ON 19.12.2024

Deaths due to air pollution in north India

2775. DR. M. THAMBIDURAI:

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

- (a) whether it is a fact that large number of deaths occur due to severe air pollution, especially in North India;
- (b) if so, the details thereof, including the number of deaths during the last five years, yearwise, State-wise; and
- (c) the steps taken by Government to check air pollution?

ANSWER

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

(a) and (b): 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 apart from the environment, which include food habits, occupational habits, socio-economic status, medical history, immunity, heredity, etc., of the individuals.

(c): Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEF&CC) has launched National Clean Air Programme (NCAP) in January 2019 as a national strategy to address air pollution in targeted 130 non-attainment cities/Million-plus cities across the country through implementation of national, state and city level action plans. Under the Programme, an amount of Rs.11,211 crore has been provided to 130 cities for implementation of City Action plans to take measures to improve air quality.

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. Some of the other key measures taken by the Government for air quality management are placed at **Annexure I**.

Other key measures taken by the 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) Diesel/petrol/CNG generator sets
 - b) Industrial boilers
 - c) Lime Kilns
 - d) Brick kilns and conversion of zig-zag technology
 - e) Calcinated petcoke industry
 - f) Hot mix plants
 - g) Thermal power 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/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).
