

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 374
TO BE ANSWERED ON 28.11.2024

Air pollution

374. DR. ASHOK KUMAR MITTAL:

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

- (a) the steps taken by Government to combat the increasing levels of air pollution across major cities;
- (b) the reasons behind the inadequate implementation of pollution control measures under existing policies;
- (c) the details of Government's strategy for publicly monitoring, reporting the air pollution;
- (d) whether Government is considering to regulate the industrial emissions strictly to improve air quality, if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) if not, the reasons for the same?

ANSWER

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

(a):

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 allocation of 19,611 crore has been made for 130 cities out of which Rs.16,539 crore to 48 million plus cities is through XVth Finance Million Plus City Challenge Fund (MPCCF) and Rs.3072 crore to 82 cities is through Control of Pollution Scheme of MoEFCC for the period 2019-20 till 2025-26. An amount of Rs.11,211 crore has been released 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.

(b) to (e): Central Pollution Control Board along with State Pollution Control Boards and Pollution Control Committees operates nation-wide National Air Quality Monitoring Programme (NAMP). Ambient air quality monitoring is carried out in 543 cities and the data is made publicly available on the website of Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB). Air Quality Index (AQI), which provides the air quality information, easy to understand and is disseminated on real-time basis through CPCB website and SAMEEER mobile app for 288 cities.

Emission standards for more than 80 industries have been notified under Environment (Protection) Rules, 1986. Compliance of emission standards and environmental norms is monitored by concerned State Pollution Control Board/ Pollution Control Committees through Consent issued under The Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1981 and The Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974 and also through the Environmental Clearance conditions wherever applicable. In addition, Regional Offices of Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change and Regional Directorates of CPCB carry out inspections of the industries to verify the environmental compliances under Environment (Protection) Act, 1986.

For strengthening monitoring mechanism and effective compliance through self-regulatory mechanism, 17 categories of highly polluting industries, GPs of Ganga basin, CETPs, biomedical waste management facilities and Treatment, Storage and Disposal Facilities (TSDF) for hazardous waste were directed to install Online Continuous Effluent/ Emission Monitoring Systems (OCEMS) for constant vigil on pollution levels. CPCB conducts surveillance inspections based on data generated from OCEMS of 17 of categories highly polluting industries for verification of emission standards regularly and actions are taken against the non-complying units.

Regulatory measures taken by the Government are enclosed at **Annexure I**.

Regulatory 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) 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).
