

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

**RAJYA SABHA**  
**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1015**  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 13.02.2025

**Deterioration in air quality**

1015. SHRI NEERAJ DANGI:

Will the MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government is aware of the recent deterioration in air quality in various cities, particularly the PM 2.5 levels which have exceeded the safe limits in major metro areas;
- (b) the reasons for Government's failure to meet the targets of the National Clean Air Programme (NCAP);
- (c) the manner in which Government intends to handle the air quality issues in tier 2 and 3 cities which lack adequate monitoring infrastructure; and
- (d) the details of budgetary allocation for satellite data interpretation for real-time air quality management during the last five years?

**ANSWER**

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

**(a) to (d):** 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). Out of 130 cities under NCAP, 97 cities have shown improvement in air quality in terms of reduction in annual PM10 concentrations in FY 2023-24 with respect to the levels of FY 2017-18. Out of 130 cities, 18 cities have met National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS) for PM10 (60 µg/m<sup>3</sup>) in FY 2023-24.

Based on the PM2.5 data for 2023, 246 out of 454 cities, where monitoring was carried out, have met the national ambient air quality standards for the annual average of PM2.5 levels. With regard to metro cities, 5 cities have met the national standards. PM2.5 levels of metropolitan cities for the year 2023 are enclosed at **Annexure I**.

The Government has taken several proactive air quality improvement measures such as notification of emission standards for over 80 industries, implementation of BS-VI emissions norms, framework for Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) and Waste management. Some of the key measures taken by the Central Government for air quality management are enclosed at **Annexure II**. These measures also address air quality issues in Tier 2 and Tier 3 cities. An allocation of Rs. 1,04,39,130/- has been made during last five years for study on satellite-based air quality measurements.

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**Annexure I**

**Details of annual average PM2.5 levels in metro cities during the year 2023**

<b>Sr. No.</b>	<b>State</b>	<b>City</b>	<b>Annual average PM2.5 levels (<math>\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3</math>) in 2023</b>
1	Gujarat	Ahmedabad	39
2	Karnataka	Bangalore	33
3	Tamil Nadu	Chennai	28
4	Delhi	Delhi	105
5	Telangana	Hyderabad	38
6	West Bengal	Kolkata	48
7	Maharashtra	Mumbai	47
8		Pune	52
9	Gujarat	Surat	50

**Note:** National Ambient Air Quality Standard for PM2.5 concentrations (annual average) is 40  $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ .

**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) 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/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).

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