

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 3082
TO BE ANSWERED ON 27.03.2025

Lung cancer due to pollution

3082. SHRI ASHOKRAO SHANKARRAO CHAVAN:

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

- (a) whether as per a study published in the Lancet Respiratory Medicine Journal cases of lung cancer are increasing rapidly globally and particularly in India and if so, details thereof;
- (b) whether as per a separate report of the Journal long term exposure to PM2.5 pollution can be associated with 1.5 million deaths annually in the country both in urban and rural areas and if so, response of Government thereto;
- (c) whether people living in metro and tier-1 and tier-2 cities have to face severe pollution and it is the main reason for increasing cases of lung cancer; and
- (d) if so, steps taken by Government to alleviate pollution?

ANSWER

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

(a) to (c) : There is no conclusive data available to establish a direct correlation of deaths including lung cancer exclusively with air pollution. Air pollution is one of the many factors affecting respiratory ailments and associated diseases. Health is impacted by 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.

Journal paper “Estimated worldwide variation and trends in incidence of lung cancer by histological subtype in 2022 and over time: a population-based study” and “Estimating the effect of annual PM 2.5 exposure on mortality in India: a difference-in-differences approach” published in The Lancet Respiratory Medicine were studies conducted using statistical models and have limitations.

As per daily Air Quality Index (AQI) data for the year 2024, in respect of 291 cities where AQI was monitored, only 25 cities have severe air quality days (AQI values more than 400)

ranging from 1-17 days in a year. The details of cities (State-wise) which have recorded AQI more than 400 during the year 2024 are provided at **Annexure I**.

(d) : To address air pollution, Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC) launched National Clean Air Programme (NCAP) with an aim to improve air quality in 130 cities (non-attainment cities and Million Plus Cities) in 24 States/UTs by engaging all stakeholders.

Some of the other key measures taken by the Central Government to alleviate pollution are enclosed at **Annexure-II**.

Annexure I

Details of cities with number of days having AQI more than 400 during year 2024

S. No.	State/UTs	City	Number of days with AQI more than 400
1	Bihar	Bhagalpur	3
2		Hajipur	5
3		Saharsa	2
4	Chandigarh	Chandigarh	1
5	Delhi	Delhi	17
6	Haryana	Bahadurgarh	3
7		Bhiwani	2
8		Dharuhera	1
9		Gurugram	2
10		Rohtak	2
11		Sonipat	1
12	Himachal Pradesh	Baddi	3
13	Jharkhand	Dhanbad	1
14	Manipur	Imphal	2
15	Odisha	Balasore	1
16	Rajasthan	Bhiwadi	1
17		Bikaner	1
18		Churu	1
19		Hanumangarh	1
20		SriGanganagar	2
21		Uttar Pradesh	Bulandshahr
22	Ghaziabad		3
23	GreaterNoida		1
24	Hapur		3
25	Noida		2

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) Thermal power plants
 - b) Diesel/petrol/CNG generator sets
 - c) Industries 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) fuel emissions norms from since 1st April, 2018 in NCT of Delhi and from 1st April 2020 for the rest of the country.
- iv. Vehicle Scrapping Policy, Rules for Registered Vehicle Scrapping Facilities and Automated Testing Station by MoRTH
- v. Waste management rules for solid waste, plastic waste, hazardous waste, e-waste, battery waste, biomedical waste, 100% ash utilization 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 utilization 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 Environment Pollution Index (CEPI).
