

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2151
TO BE ANSWERED ON 07.08.2025

National Clean Air Programme

2151. SHRI MITHLESH KUMAR:
SHRI RAMESWAR TELI:
SMT. KIRAN CHOUDHRY:
SHRI BABURAM NISHAD:

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

- (a) the impact of the National Clean Air Programme so far;
- (b) whether the Ministry plans to expand this programme beyond the 130 cities currently covered under this programme;
- (c) if so, the number of cities to which this programme will be expanded and the financial year by which this target is being planned to be achieved; and
- (d) whether any specific scheme is being implemented to improve the Air Quality Index (AQI) of the National Capital Territory of Delhi

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) launched by Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEF&CC) in January 2019 aims to improve air quality in 130 non-attainment and Million-Plus Cities in 24 States/UTs National Capital Territory of Delhi.

The focused actions under NCAP have shown positive results with 103 cities showing reduction in PM₁₀ concentrations in 2024-25 with respect to 2017-18, out of which 64 cities have shown reduction in PM₁₀ levels by more than 20% and 25 of these cities have achieved a reduction of more than 40%. A total of 22 Cities have met National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS) and have PM₁₀ concentrations less than 60 µg/m³.

The programme included non-attainment cities based on the cities that have exceeded National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS) for PM₁₀ levels consecutively for a period of 5 years during 2014-2019.

Targeted cities have been assigned annual PM₁₀ reduction target of 3-15% so as to achieve the overall reduction of 40% in PM₁₀ levels by 2025-26 in comparison to 2017-18.

In addition, 48 Million-Plus Population Cities/Urban Agglomerations have been provided annual target 15% increase in Good air quality days (Air Quality Index less than 200) in line with Operational Guidelines of Department of Expenditure dated 10.08.2021.

Under the programme, an amount of Rs. 20,130 crore has been allocated to 130 targeted cities during the period from 2019-20 to 2025-26. An amount of ₹ 13,036.52 crore has been provided to 130 cities as a critical gap funding to implement air pollution mitigation measures, during 2019-20 till date.

6 cities namely, Delhi, Alwar, Faridabad, Noida, Ghaziabad and Meerut are part of Delhi National Capital Region (NCR) and are funded under National Clean Air Programme for improvement of air quality.

Details of funds provided to cities of NCR under NCAP are enclosed at **Annexure I**. The details of measures taken for air quality management in Delhi NCR are enclosed at **Annexure II**.

The measures taken by cities under NCAP include preparation of State and City Action Plan, implementation of road improvement works for dust control, such as end-to-end paving, mechanized road sweeping, greening of open spaces and traffic corridors, improvement of traffic junctions for decongestion, establishment of crematoriums based on cleaner fuels or installation of pollution control devices in conventional crematoriums, organizing public outreach and awareness campaigns involving youth through 'MY Bharat' online platform.

Annexure I**Details of funds provided to cities of NCR for air quality improvement measures under NCAP during 2019-20 till 2025-26 (1st August)**

Funded through Fifteenth Finance Commission air quality grants			
S.No.	State	Cities	Amount (Rs. in crore)
1	Haryana	Faridabad	107.14
2	Uttar Pradesh	Ghaziabad	257.89
3	Uttar Pradesh	Meerut	187.99
Funded through Control of Pollution Scheme of MoEFCC			
1	Delhi	Delhi	62.03
2	Rajasthan	Alwar	23.53
3	Uttar Pradesh	Noida	47.43
Total			728.58

The details of measures taken for air quality management in Delhi NCR

1. Regulatory Actions in Delhi-NCR:

- Commission for Air Quality Management (CAQM) in National Capital Region (NCR) and Adjoining Areas has been constituted for coordination, research, identification and resolution of problems surrounding the air quality index in NCR in co-ordination with the Govt. of National Capital Territory of Delhi and the States of Punjab, Haryana, Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh
- For air pollution abatement and control in Delhi NCR, the Commission for Air Quality Management in NCR and Adjoining Areas has devised a comprehensive policy for air pollution abatement in NCR in July 2022, stipulating sector-specific action points quantifying targets along with timelines and implementation plan by various agencies in NCR States. The policy framework details sector-wise interventions, quantified targets and timelines for various sectors contributing to air pollution.
- Graded Response Action Plan (GRAP) was formulated for Delhi-NCR to tackle the issue of sudden rise in air pollution levels. The revised GRAP was published by CAQM in December 2024 and further directions were issued for its implementation. Actions listed for different AQI levels under GRAP are invoked from time to time by a sub-committee constituted by CAQM.
- Directions prescribing measures for control of pollution from various sources such as implementation of RECD system/ dual fuel kits in DG sets, use of cleaner fuels in industries, shift to EV/ CNG/ BS VI diesel fuel in transport sector, implementation of dust control measures at C&D sites etc., have been issued by CAQM. Further, policy to curb air pollution in NCR has also been formulated.

2. Measures for control of emissions from Stubble Burning in Delhi-NCR:

- Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare (MoA&FW) in 2018 launched scheme for providing subsidy for purchase of crop residue management machinery and establishment of custom hiring centres (CHCs) in NCT of Delhi and the States of Punjab, Haryana and Uttar Pradesh for in-situ management of paddy straw. During the period from 2018-19 to 2024-25, Rs. 3698.45 crores have been released by MoA&FW (Punjab - Rs. 1756.45 crores, Haryana - Rs. 1081.71 crores, Uttar Pradesh - Rs. 763.67 crores, NCT of Delhi - Rs. 6.05 Crores, ICAR- Rs. 83.35 crores & others Rs. 7.22 Crores). The states have distributed more than 3.00 lakhs machines to the individual farmers and to more than 40000 Custom Hiring Centers in these 4 States, which also include more than 4500 Balers & Rakes which are used for collection of straw in the form of bales for further ex-situ utilization. MoA&FW in 2023 revised guidelines under the scheme to support establishment of crop residue/paddy straw supply chain, by providing financial assistance on the capital cost of machinery and equipment.
- An Inter-Ministerial Committee has been constituted for convergence of scheme of Schemes/Initiatives supporting Ex-situ management of paddy straw.
- CAQM has provided a Framework to the states concerned for control / elimination of crop residue burning and directed these to draw up detailed state-specific action plans based on the major contours of the framework. Directions have also been issued by CAQM to State

Governments of Punjab, Haryana and Uttar Pradesh to strictly and effectively implement revised action plan to eliminate and control stubble burning.

- CAQM has issued directions permitting use of PNG or biomass as industrial fuel in NCR except Delhi where only PNG is permitted as industrial fuel. CAQM has also issued directions for co-firing of 5-10% biomass with coal in thermal power plants located within 300 kms of Delhi, and, in captive power plants of industrial units located in NCR.
- Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) has framed Guidelines for grant of one-time financial support under Environment Protection Charge funds for establishment of pelletization and Torrefaction plants to promote utilisation of paddy straw. So far, 15 plants have been sanctioned with utilization capacity of 2.7 lakh tonnes of paddy straw per annum.
- During stubble burning season, Scientists of CPCB were deployed as flying squads for assisting CAQM in NCR and adjoining areas for intensifying monitoring and enforcement actions towards prevention of paddy stubble burning incidents in 22 districts of Punjab and 11 districts of Haryana.

3. Measures for control of vehicular emissions:

- Directions issued by CAQM to Government of NCT of Delhi and State Governments of Haryana, Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh for migration of public transport services, especially buses in NCR to cleaner modes. All state Govt. bus services between Delhi and any city/town in the states of Haryana, Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh to be operated only through EV /CNG/BS-VI diesel w.e.f. 01.11.2023.
- Leapfrogging from BS-IV to BS-VI norms for fuel and vehicles since April, 2018 in NCT of Delhi and from 1st April, 2020 for rest of the country.
- Environment protection charges (EPC) have been imposed on diesel vehicles with engine capacity of 2000cc and above in Delhi NCR.
- Installation of Vapour Recovery Systems at 3256 petrol pumps in Delhi-NCR in compliance with orders of Hon'ble Supreme Court and Hon'ble NGT.

4. Measures for control of industrial emissions:

- Industrial units in Delhi have shifted to PNG/cleaner fuels and, operational units in NCR have shifted to PNG/Biomass.
- Installation of Online Continuous Emission Monitoring System (OCEMS) in red category air polluting industries in Delhi-NCR
- Directions issued for conversion of brick kilns to zig-zag technology in Delhi and NCR. Brick kilns not converted to zig-zag technology are not permitted to operate in Delhi-NCR.
- In order to control DG set emissions, CPCB also provides funds for retrofitment/upgradation of DG sets in Govt. hospitals in Delhi-NCR and guidelines have been issued in this regard.
- Ban on use of pet coke and furnace oil as fuel in NCR States since October 24, 2017.
- An approved fuel list is in force in Delhi-NCR w.e.f. 01.01.2023. Industries operating on only PNG or biomass are permitted in NCR, except for specific requirement of other fuels by specific industries owing to technical, technological and process requirements. The industries not operating on approved fuels are not allowed to operate in Delhi-NCR.
- Stringent PM emission norms for biomass based boilers have been prescribed for compliance in NCR.

5. Construction & Demolition (C&D) Waste:

- Directions issued to DPCC and concerned SPCBs of NCR to enforce installation of anti-smog guns and other dust control measures at C&D sites.

- Directions issued for setting up of a “Dust Control and Management Cell” by road owning/ maintaining/ construction agencies for monitoring and effective implementation of dust control measures in the NCR.
 - Online monitoring mechanism (through web portal) introduced for monitoring compliance of dust mitigation measures for construction sites.
- 6. Close Monitoring & Ground level implementation in Delhi-NCR:**
- Teams have been deputed by CPCB since December 2021, to assist CAQM, for conducting incognito inspections of air polluting industries, C&D sites, DG sets in Delhi-NCR to check implementation status of pollution control measures and compliance of other provisions of the Air (Prevention & Control of Pollution) Act, 1981.
- 7. Other key measures taken by the Government to control pollution:**
- Emission standards for more than 80 industries have been notified under Environment (Protection) Rules, 1986
 - Vehicle Scrapping Policy has been released, Rules for Registered Vehicle Scrapping Facilities and Automated Testing Stations have been notified by MoRTH
 - Waste management rules have been notified for solid waste, plastic waste, hazardous waste, e-waste, battery waste, biomedical waste, construction & demolition waste, end-of-life vehicles, 100% ash utilisation by Thermal Power Plants
 - Market-based Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) regulations introduced for waste categories, viz. plastic packaging, e-waste, battery waste, waste tyres, used oil, end-of-life vehicles, construction & demolition waste and scrap of non-ferrous metals
 - 12 identified Single-Use Plastics (SUP) having high littering potential and low utility were banned from 1st July, 2022
 - Categorization of industrial areas as Critically and Severely Polluted Areas (CPAs/SPAs) based on Comprehensive Environmental Pollution Index (CEPI).
