

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

**RAJYA SABHA**  
**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 3271**  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 21.08.2025

**Green Cover expansion and pollution mitigation in industrial districts of Karnataka**

3271. DR. DHARMASTHALA VEERENDRA HEGGADE:

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

- (a) whether Government is aware that districts such as Gulbarga, Bagalkot, Belgaum and Chitradurga in Karnataka have emerged as significant industrial belts, particularly with a high concentration of cement manufacturing units contributing to environmental stress;
- (b) the steps being taken by Government to support the expansion of green cover in such industrially active districts to mitigate pollution and restore ecological balance;
- (c) the details of the afforestation and air pollution mitigation projects implemented in these districts under schemes during the last three years; and
- (d) whether Government proposes to launch any focused "Green Zone" initiative in industrial corridors and if so, the details thereof

**ANSWER**

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

- (a) As per information received from Karnataka State Pollution Control Board (KSPCB), there are 17 cement units operating in the said districts [Kalaburagi (Gulbarga) - 8, Bagalkot - 4, Belagavi (Belgaum) - 4 & Chitradurga -1]. All these units are operating with valid consents of KSPCB under Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974 and Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1981. The primary components of the cement manufacturing process that contribute to air and water pollution include the Raw Mill/ Kiln, Coal Mill, Cooler Discharge, and Cement Mill, among others, which are monitored by regulatory agencies.
- (b)to(d) Further, KSPCB has informed that the cement industries are mandated to provide Air Pollution Control equipment such as Electrostatic Precipitator and Bag House / Bag Filters for effective dust control from process stacks, material handling/ transfer points, coal mills, packing section etc., to meet the standards stipulated under Environment (Protection) Act 1986. Further, the cement industries are mandated to provide Online Continuous Emission Monitoring System (OCEMS) on the major stacks as per Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) guidelines, and ensure real time data connectivity to KSPCB/ CPCB server, along with provision of Continuous Ambient Air Quality Monitoring (CAAQM) stations for continuous monitoring of ambient air and effective implementation of fugitive dust control measures. A specific condition is also stipulated in the consent mandating units to adhere with CPCB

guidelines for fugitive dust control and Standard Operating Procedure for co-processing of wastes. A specific condition to develop minimum 33% greenbelt in the industry premises is also being stipulated in the Environment Clearances issued to cement industries, which is further emphasised through the conditions prescribed in the Consent to Establish (CTE) / Consent to Operate (CTO) issued to the industries, and verified for compliance by the KSPCB.

Under the National Clean Air Program, an amount of ₹30.31 crore has been provided to Gulbarga non-attainment City for implementing clean air action plan, which covers plantation of 23,500 saplings along major roads and in open spaces, mechanical sweeping of 60 km of road length for dust control, and end-to-end paving of 2 kilometres of key roads. The Ministry is also implementing Nagar Van Yojana since 2020-21, funded through National Compensatory Afforestation Fund Management and Planning Authority, with an aim to create forest/ green spaces in urban areas by developing Nagar Van/ Vatikas and to protect forest lands within cities/ towns or its fringes from degradation and encroachment. Nine projects (Bagalkot-4 and Chitradurga-5) have been sanctioned under the scheme amounting to Rs.959.458Lakhs, and the first instalment of Rs.671.62Lakhs was released in the year 2024-25.

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