

.GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

RAJYA SABHA
STARRED QUESTION NO. 133
TO BE ANSWERED ON 11.12.2025

Controlling air pollution

*133. DR. ASHOK KUMAR MITTAL:

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

- (a) the steps taken to address the alarming rise in air pollution levels in tier-2 and tier-3 cities;
- (b) the reasons why the Ministry continues to focus predominantly on Delhi while ignoring smaller cities facing equal or worse air quality crises;
- (c) the manner in which the Ministry justifies inadequate allocation of funds and monitoring infrastructure in non-metro regions;
- (d) the details of accountability mechanisms that exists for State-level implementation of the National Clean Air Programme; and
- (e) the reasons for not releasing timely the city-specific air quality data for smaller towns

ANSWER

MINISTER FOR ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE
(SHRI BHUPENDER YADAV)

(a) to (e) : A Statement is laid on the Table of the House

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARAS (a) to (e) OF THE RAJYA SABHA STARRED QUESTION No. 133 DUE FOR REPLY ON 11.12.2025 REGARDING CONTROLLING AIR POLLUTION BY DR. ASHOK KUMAR MITTAL, HON'BLE MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT

(a) to (e): The Government of India has launched the National Clean Air Programme (NCAP) in 2019 as a long-term, time-bound, national-level strategy to address air pollution all over the country. Accordingly, under NCAP, 130 non-attainment and million plus cities/urban agglomeration which includes tier-2 and tier-3 cities, in 24 States/UTs have been identified.

NCAP is multi-sectoral initiative involving the coordinated efforts of the Central and State Governments, Urban Local Bodies (ULBs), and other stakeholders. It emphasizes source-specific mitigation measures through city, state, and national-level clean air action plans.

City Specific Clean Air Action Plans have been prepared by all 130 cities under NCAP to implement air quality improvement measures in respective cities. These plans target air pollution sources like soil & road dust, vehicular emissions, waste burning, Construction & Demolition activities and industrial pollution.

Out of 130 cities under NCAP, 48 Million-Plus Cities/ Urban Agglomerations are funded under XVth Finance Commission Million Plus City Challenge Fund as an air quality performance grant, and the remaining 82 cities are funded under the Control of Pollution Scheme of MoEFCC. Performance linked grant of ₹ 13,415.43 crore has been released to 130 cities as a critical gap funding to implement air pollution mitigation measures, since 2019-20 till date.

In addition to this, NCAP emphasizes mobilization of resources through the convergence of resources from various Central Government schemes such as Swachh Bharat Mission (Urban), AMRUT, Smart City Mission, PM e-Bus Sewa, PM E-DRIVE, SATAT, and Nagar Van Yojana, as well as resources from State Govts./ UT administration and agencies like Municipal Corporations and Urban Development authorities. Various Ministries/Departments of Govt. of India provide funding under their Schemes/ Programmes as per their budgets.

Further, Steering Committee under the chairmanship of Chief Secretary and Air Quality Monitoring Committee (AQMC) under the chairmanship of Additional Chief Secretary/ Principal Secretary, Environment, Forest and climate Change Department, District level implementation committee under the chairmanship of District Collector have been constituted at State level for periodic monitoring and implementation of clean air action plans.

In addition, the programme is also monitored by the State level DISHA committee headed by the Chief Minister of the State/UT and District level DISHA committee headed by Member of Parliament (Lok Sabha) elected from the District.

Further, the programme implementation is tracked through the PRANA - Portal for Regulation of Air Pollution in Non-Attainment Cities—a centralized web portal has been operationalised for monitoring the implementation of various activities under NCAP. It captures both physical progress and financial progress across all 130 cities (prana.cpcb.gov.in).

Concerned State Pollution Control Boards/Pollution Control Committees install Monitoring Stations to collect ambient air quality, in line with the criteria issued by the Central Pollution

Control Board (CPCB). At present, ambient air quality monitoring is carried out by Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) and State Pollution Control Boards (SPCB)/Pollution Control Committees (PCCs) in 572 cities across the country.

A centralised air quality portal and mobile app-SAMEER is functional for tracking and dissemination of near real time air quality data and hourly Air Quality Index to the public. CPCB issues a daily bulletin at 04:00 PM comprising AQI of various cities in the country. SAMEER app also serves as a grievance redressal mechanism which allows the citizens to report pollution related complaints for quick resolution by the concerned agencies. Further, air quality monitoring data is also made available by respective SPCBs/PCCs on their websites.

The focused actions by 130 cities under NCAP have shown positive results with 103 cities showing reduction in PM10 concentration in 2024-25 with respect to 2017-18, 64 cities have shown reduction in PM10 levels by more than 20% with respect to base year 2017-18 and 25 of these cities have achieved a reduction of more than 40%. A total of 22 Cities have met NAAQS and have PM10 Concentrations less than 60 µg/m³. Achievements under NCAP are enclosed at **Annexure I.**

Annexure I

Achievements under the National Clean Air Programme (NCAP)

Activities	Unit	Progress under NCAP	Progress under XV-FC	Total Progress (NCAP XV-FC) +	Progress under Convergence of various other schemes	Grand Total
End-to-end pavement of road	Km	1,353	10,801	12,154	6,153	18,307
Road length swept through Mechanical Road Sweepers (MRS No-396)	Km/day	5,550 (185)	3,720 (124)	9,270 (309)	2,610 (87)	11,880 (396)
Development of green area	Acres	745.46	3,591.54	4,337.01	1,041	5,378
C&D processing sites established	TPD	115	815	930	7,302	8,232
No. of electric-buses purchased and deployed	Nos.	2	1,411	1,413	2,513	3,926
No. of EV Charging Stations established	Nos.	18	424	442	317	759
No. of PNG/Electric crematorium established	Nos.	28	146	174	25	199
Legacy Waste sites remediated	Lakh MT	2.92	35.43	38.36	117	156
