

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

RAJYA SABHA
STARRED QUESTION NO. 51
TO BE ANSWERED ON 04.12.2025

Measures to control air pollution in major cities

*51. SHRI MASTHAN RAO YADAV BEEDHA:

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

- (a) the current status of air quality levels in major Indian cities;
- (b) the steps taken by Government to curb pollution under the National Clean Air Programme (NCAP); and
- (c) whether the Ministry proposes stricter timelines and targets for achieving clean air standards?

ANSWER

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

(a) to (c) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY OF PARA (A) TO (C) OF STARRED QUESTION NO. 51 TO BE ANSWERED ON 04.12.2025 IN RAJYA SABHA RAISED BY SHRI MASTHAN RAO YADAV BEEDHA TITLED “MEASURES TO CONTROL AIR POLLUTION IN MAJOR CITIES”

(a) to (c): The Government is sensitive about the health of its citizens. 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 through a comprehensive, integrated and collaborative approach involving the coordinated efforts of the Central and State Governments, Urban Local Bodies (ULBs) and other stakeholders.

Out of 130 cities, 48 Million-Plus Cities/ Urban Agglomerations are funded under XVth Finance Commission Million-Plus City Challenge Fund as an air quality performance grant, and remaining 82 cities are funded under Control of Pollution Scheme of MoEFCC.

It emphasizes source-specific mitigation measures through the implementation of city, state, and national-level Clean Air Action Plans. State Action Plans have been prepared by all 24 States/UTs. Also, all 130 cities under the NCAP have prepared a Clean Air Action Plan (CAP). These plans focus on sectoral interventions such as road dust control, solid waste management, vehicular emissions, construction and demolition activities and industrial pollution. Annual Action Plans are prepared for implementation of activities prioritized on key pollution sources and availability of resources. Also, relevant Mission LiFE activities in respect of air quality management have been integrated in State and City Action Plans to promote the activities nudging the individuals to adopt environment-friendly lifestyles.

Committees at National Level (Apex, Steering, Monitoring and Implementation), State level (Steering and Monitoring) and City level Monitoring and Implementation Committee have been constituted to coordinate, monitor, evaluate the progress and provide guidance for implementation of city action plans including utilization of funds.

The programme emphasises the mobilisation of resources through convergence of various schemes of Central & State Governments such as Swachh Bharat Mission (Urban), AMRUT, Smart City Mission, PM e-Bus Sewa, PM E-DRIVE, Sustainable Alternative Towards Affordable Transportation (SATAT), and Nagar Van Yojana, as well as resources of State Govts. / UT administrations, Municipal Corporations and other developmental authorities.

Air quality performance assessment of 130 cities is conducted annually against the prescribed air pollution reduction targets to avail the incentive grant under NCAP. 82 cities funded under CP Scheme have been provided annual target for reduction of PM10 concentrations whereas 48 Million Plus Cities have been provided annual target for reduction of PM10 concentrations as well as increase in Good Air Quality Days (Air Quality Index <200).

Air Quality Challenge Method (AQCM) has been introduced in the FY 2025-26 to access funds by 82 cities under CP Scheme of MoEF&CC. AQCM mandates the cities to meet the pre-qualification criteria, implementation of reform measures and achieve air quality performance.

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).

Cities have been mandated to prepare saturation-based action plans based on the major pollution sources. Guidance document on ‘design and construction of dust free roads’ and ‘comprehensive guideline for the establishing micro-forest’ issued for their implementation in NCAP cities.

Swachh Vayu Survekshan initiative is conducted annually under NCAP to rank 130 cities based on implementation of various air quality improvement measures. Better performing cities are felicitated annually on National Swachh Vayu Diwas (7th September). Further, guidelines for Ward-level Swachh Vayu Survekshan promotes awareness and public participation towards air quality improvement.

Citizen awareness programmes have been conducted by all 130 cities sensitizing the causes and need for reducing air pollution. Youth involvement in the awareness and public outreach activities has been ensured through ‘Meri Yuva Bharat’ portal of Department of Youth Affairs.

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. Air quality of major cities is enclosed at **Annexure I**. The achievement under NCAP is as follows:

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

Activities	Unit	Progress under NCAP	Progress under XV-FC	Total Progress (NCAP + XV-FC)	Progress under Convergence of various other schemes	Grand Total
Legacy Waste sites remediated	Lakh MT	2.92	35.43	38.36	117	156

Annexure I**Air quality in major cities in terms of PM₁₀ levels in FY 2024-25**

S. No.	City	PM10 Concentrations (µg/m³) in FY 2024–25
1.	Agra	103
2.	Ahmedabad	103
3.	Allahabad	99
4.	Amritsar	112
5.	Asansol	131
6.	Aurangabad	100
7.	Bengaluru	68
8.	Bhopal	107
9.	Chandigarh	114
10.	Chennai	58
11.	Delhi	203
12.	Dhanbad	166
13.	Durg Bhilainagar	69
14.	Faridabad	147
15.	Ghaziabad	154
16.	Gwalior	117
17.	Hyderabad	81
18.	Indore	83
19.	Jabalpur	73
20.	Jaipur	142
21.	Jamshedpur	145
22.	Jodhpur	122
23.	Kanpur	102
24.	Kolkata	92
25.	Kota	115
26.	Lucknow	142
27.	Ludhiana	129
28.	Madurai	61
29.	Meerut	133
30.	Mumbai	90
31.	Nagpur	92
32.	Nashik	76
33.	Patna	167
34.	Pune	93
35.	Raipur	75
36.	Rajkot	89
37.	Ranchi	107
38.	Surat	71
39.	Trichy	57

40.	Vadodara	90
41.	Varanasi	59
42.	Vasai Virar	90
43.	Vijayawada	64
44.	Visakhapatnam	101
