

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1320
TO BE ANSWERED ON 11.12.2025

Improving air quality

1320. SHRI MUKUL BALKRISHNA WASNIK:

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

- (a) whether Government is implementing pollution control measures in numerous cities, particularly the non-attainment and million-plus cities with chronically poor air quality;
- (b) if so, the details thereof including the achievements made, so far, along with the timelines and goals set out to be achieved in each of the cities;
- (c) whether any study has been conducted to assess the adverse impact of pollution on public health, particularly among children, women and elderly; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken to improve air quality?

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 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 MoEF&CC. Air quality reduction targets assigned to 130 cities under the NCAP for FY 2025-26 will be assessed in FY 2026-27 and these cities are required to implement their respective City Action Plans in FY 2025-26 based on the annual air pollution reduction targets provided to them.

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.

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.

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. The achievements under NCAP are enclosed at **Annexure-I**.

Studies have been conducted by academic and research institutes on impact of air pollution.

Achievements under 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