GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1333
TO BE ANSWERED ON 11.12.2025

Compliance of CAAQMS

1333. MS. SWATI MALIWAL:

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

(a) whether Government has taken cognisance of the recent CAG findings highlighting non-compliance of Delhi's air quality monitoring stations with Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) norms and if so, the details thereof;
(b) the number of Continuous Ambient Air Quality Monitoring Stations (CAAQMS) in Delhi presently operational and those found non-compliant with location or maintenance guidelines;
(c) the steps taken to rectify these deficiencies and ensure data accuracy; and
(d) whether any periodic audits or third-party verifications are mandated for CAAQMS operations across the country and if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

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

(a) to (d) : As per the information provided by the Govt. of National Capital Territory of Delhi (GNCTD), CAG carried out Performance Audit of 'Prevention and Mitigation of Vehicular Air Pollution in Delhi' for the year ending 31st March, 2021. GNCTD has taken cognizance of this report for further remedial action.

There are 39 Continuous Ambient Air Quality Monitoring Stations (CAAQMS) operational in Delhi. GNCTD informed that maintenance of CAAQMS is done on regular basis as per CPCB protocols and calibration norms of CPCB are followed to ensure authenticity and accuracy of the data received from CAAQMS.

CPCB has issued guidelines for establishing Ambient Air Quality Monitoring stations namely, "Guidelines for the Measurement of Ambient Air Pollutants (Volume-I: Guidelines for Manual Sampling & Analyses, and Volume-II: Guidelines for Real Time Sampling & Analyses)". Further, CPCB has also issued "Technical Handbook for Installation, Maintenance, Calibration, Data Connectivity and Data Quality check of Continuous Ambient Air Quality Monitoring System (Real Time)".

The Hand Book provides for conducting Annual Audit of CAAQMs by third party who should have accreditation of ISO 17025 and having expertise in the O&M of CAAQM System to ensure the proper functioning of the system in respect of operation of analysers, their maintenance & calibration, data quality, operator skills, etc.

Concerned State Pollution Control Boards/Pollution Control Committees also instal Monitoring Stations to collect ambient air quality, in line with the criteria issued by the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) and these are run, operated and maintained by the respective agencies as per the aforementioned framework.

*****