

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1340
TO BE ANSWERED ON 11.12.2025

Air quality rankings

1340 . DR. V. SIVADASAN:

Will the Minister of Environment, Forest and Climate Change be pleased to state:

- (a) the country's global rankings in the IQAir World Air Quality Ranking, the WHO Global Air Quality Database, the Environmental Performance Index (EPI) and the Global Burden of Disease (GBD) air-pollution metrics since 2020, year-wise;
- (b) the key parameters used by these indices for assessing pollution levels;
- (c) whether the Ministry has undertaken any review of the country's performance in these international indices; and
- (d) the steps being taken to improve the country's standing in future global pollution assessments?

ANSWER

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

(a) to (d): Worldwide ranking of cities for pollution levels is not being conducted by official authority.

World Health Organisations Air Quality Guidelines serve as only a guidance document and these are recommended values for air pollutants to help countries achieve air quality. However, countries prepare their air quality standards based on geography, environmental factors, background levels, socio-economic status and national circumstances.

Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change has notified the National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS) for 12 air pollutants to safeguard public health and environment quality.

However, MoEFCC conducts Swachh Vayu Survekshan annually to rank 130 cities which are covered under NCAP based on implementation of various air quality improvement measures. Better performing cities are felicitated annually on National Swachh Vayu Diwas (7th September).
