

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 521
TO BE ANSWERED ON 04.12.2025

Pollution level in Urban areas

521. SHRI MUKUL BALKRISHNA WASNIK:

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

- (a) whether it is a fact that several cities in the country are ranked among the most polluted in the world;
- (b) whether severe air pollution poses significant health risks and economic costs;
- (c) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken by Government to ensure a significant reduction in pollution levels; and
- (d) the amount spent by Government under various schemes aimed at environment protection and pollution control?

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

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 in 130 non-attainment and million plus cities/urban agglomeration in 24 States/UTs

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.

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, out of which 64 cities have shown reduction in PM₁₀ levels by more than 20% and 25 of these cities have achieved a reduction of more than 40%. A total of 22 Cities have met National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS) and have PM₁₀ Concentrations less than 60 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$.
