

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF HOUSING AND URBAN AFFAIRS
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 854
ANSWERED ON 08/12/2025**

MEASURES TAKEN TO ENSURE CLEANER URBAN ENVIRONMENTS

854. SHRI JOSE K. MANI:

Will the Minister of HOUSING AND URBAN AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) the measures Government has taken to ensure cleaner urban environments;
- (b) the manner in which Government plans to address the delays in the execution of projects meant to reduce pollution, such as metro expansions and electric buses; and
- (c) the steps Government is taking to control construction-related dust pollution, which is a major contributor to urban air pollution?

ANSWER

**THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOUSING AND URBAN AFFAIRS
(SHRI TOKHAN SAHU)**

(a) to (c) : As per the 12th Schedule of the Constitution, urban planning, protection of environment and provision of urban amenities and facilities such as parks, gardens, etc. are the responsibilities of Urban Local Bodies (ULBs)/ Urban Development Authorities. Government of India supplements the efforts of the States through schematic interventions/ advisories. It provides financial and technical support to the States through various schemes/ Missions.

Atal Mission for Rejuvenation and Urban Transformation (AMRUT) launched in the year 2015 in selected 500 cities (now 485 cities including 15 merged cities) and towns across the country was focused on development of basic infrastructure in urban areas including development of parks and green spaces and non motorized transport. Similarly, under AMRUT 2.0 launched in the year 2021 in all Urban Local Bodies (ULBs)/ cities, rejuvenation of water bodies and development of parks and green spaces are admissible components. States/Union Territories (UTs) are empowered to select, appraise, prioritise and implement the projects within the broad framework of Mission guidelines.

Under AMRUT, 2,529 parks projects worth ₹1,606.31 crore have been grounded, of which 2,489 projects have been completed leading to development of 5,271 acre of green spaces. Additionally, 338 Green Mobility projects have been completed under AMRUT to promote environment-friendly mode of transport and infrastructure. Under AMRUT 2.0, proposals of the States/ UTs for 3,031 water body rejuvenation projects worth ₹6,270.51 crore and 1,669 green spaces and park projects worth ₹1,089.31 crore covering 13,707.64 acre, have been approved.

Swachh Bharat Mission-Urban (SBM-U) was launched on October 2, 2014 and SBM-U 2.0 has been launched on October 1, 2021. Under SBM-U 2.0, Central Share of funds are allocated to the States/UTs for setting up waste processing facilities such as Material Recovery Facilities (MRFS), transfer stations, composting plants, biomethanation plants, Refused Derived Fuel (RDF) processing facilities, plastic waste processing facilities, waste to electricity plants, Construction and Demolition (C&D) waste plants, sanitary landfill, mechanized sweeping equipment and Bio-remediation/ capping of all legacy dumpsites in all ULBs. So far, action plans of 8450 Ton Per Day (TPD) for Construction & Demolition (C&D) waste processing plants, 19.25 Lakh MT for Legacy waste and 580 Nos. Mechanical Road Sweeping machines have been approved under SBM -U 2.0.

For a cleaner urban environment, about 1083 kms of metro rail lines (including 55 kms of Delhi Meerut RRTS) are operational so far in 25 different cities namely, Delhi, Noida, Greater Noida, Ghaziabad, Faridabad, Ballabgarh, Bahadurgarh, Gurugram, Bangalore, Hyderabad, Kolkata, Chennai, Jaipur, Kochi, Lucknow, Agra, Mumbai, Ahmedabad, Nagpur, Kanpur, Pune, Meerut, Gandhinagar, Indore and Patna. Metro Projects are implemented in a systematic manner utilizing State of art, designing and project monitoring tools for optimization of design and faster implementation of project. Further, these projects are monitored regularly by Central Government, State Government and higher management of company.

“PM-eBus Sewa” launched on 16th August 2023 aims to augment city bus operations in urban areas with Central Assistance (CA) of Rs. 20,000 crores for deploying 10,000 electric buses under the PPP model. Cities with a population between 3-40 lakhs and other State Capitals with less than 3 lakh population as per 2011 census are eligible. So far, MoHUA has approved demand of 9,360 e-buses from 15 States and 4 UTs covering 106 cities. Implementation and ground-level execution of projects under different Missions/ PM-eBus Sewa Scheme is the responsibility of the respective State Government. However, MoHUA has issued guidelines and addendum to the guidelines to help cities/ULBs/States/UTs to identify principles and strategies for better planning and execution of the scheme. The Ministry monitors the progress through mechanisms like the Central Sanctioning and Steering Committee (CSSC), Project Monitoring and Evaluation Committee (PMEC) meetings and regular review meetings.

Control of construction-related dust pollution is mandated through statutory regulations and guidelines notified by the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB), Commission for Air Quality Management (CAQM) and MoEFCC. These include the Construction and Demolition Waste Management Rules, 2016, Environmental (Protection) Amendment Rules, 2018, and dust-mitigation guidelines for all construction projects.

Further, The Commission for Air Quality Management in National Capital Region (NCR) and Adjoining Areas had issued a sector specific comprehensive Policy in July, 2022 to Curb Air Pollution in the National Capital Region. To control dust pollution from construction and demolition projects in Delhi NCR, the Commission through its various directions issued from time to time have mandated for implementation and enforcement of various dust mitigation measures viz. sprinkling of water/ dust suppressant, installation of wind breakers along the project boundary, installation dust screens around active construction zone and covering of construction material, demolition waste & loose soil through tarpaulin, deployment of adequate number of anti-smog guns including registration of project site (≥ 500 sqm) on web portal for remote monitoring of the projects by respective SPCBs. The State PCBs in NCR and DPCC have also been directed to conduct regular physical inspections of different construction and demolition projects in their respective jurisdiction towards appropriate dust mitigation measures and compliance of various environmental pre-requisites like Consent To Establish / Environment Clearance and registration / self-certification on the web-portal for remote monitoring, wherever applicable. The Commission through Direction No. 85 dated 02.12.2024, as amended, empowered the Member Secretaries of the NCR State Pollution Control Boards / DPCC to file prosecution under CAQM Act for violations of directions / orders in respect of dust / air pollution control and mitigation measures at C&D sites on plot areas > 500 sqm in their respective jurisdiction, in respect of independent inspections conducted by them. Likewise, for smaller C&D sites (plot area < 500 sqm), the Commission has empowered the authorities in the ULBs concerned, through Direction No. 86 dated 02.01.2025, as amended, to file prosecution under CAQM Act for violations of directions / orders in respect of dust / air pollution control and mitigation measures in their respective jurisdiction, observed during their independent inspections.
