

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 3098
TO BE ANSWERED ON 19.03.2026

Pollution control measures in North India

3098. SHRI IMRAN PRATAPGARHI:

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

- (a) whether it is a fact that Government has directed all the States in North India to intensify district-wise pollution control measures;
- (b) if so, the details thereof, including specific directions issued, coordination mechanisms evolved and reasons necessitating such action;
- (c) whether Government has formulated a time-bound national or regional action plan to bring pollution levels in North India within prescribed standards; and
- (d) if so, the salient features, targets, timelines and monitoring framework thereof?

ANSWER

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

(a) to (d):

The issue of air pollution in north India including Delhi-NCR has been addressed by the Government in a collective, collaborative and participative mode involving all the major stakeholders. To address air pollution in Delhi-NCR, Government has established the Commission for Air Quality Management (CAQM) under the Commission for Air Quality Management in NCR and Adjoining Areas Act, 2021 for better coordination, research, identification and resolution of problems of air pollution in Delhi- NCR and adjoining areas. CAQM has been provided powers under the Act to take measures and issue directions to the various agencies in the National Capital Region for protecting and improving air quality. So far, CAQM has issued 98 Statutory Directions and 17 Advisories to concerned stakeholders for control of air pollution in Delhi-NCR.

The National Clean Air Programme (NCAP) is a national level strategic programme launched in 2019 by the MoEF&CC to reduce air pollution in the country particularly in 130 identified non-attainment and million plus cities including various cities in North India from different states. It envisages to reduce particulate matter levels in selected cities to reach better air quality standard. The National Clean Air Programme focuses on controlling pollution from multiple sectors such as industries, vehicles, waste burning, and C&D activities through inter-ministerial coordination and partnerships with national and international knowledge institutions. Under the NCAP, air pollution is addressed through a multi-level approach comprising clean air State Action Plans at the regional level, City Action Plans at the local level, and Hotspot Action Plans for hyper-local air pollution control.

Critical gap funding has been provided to all the targeted cities to implement air quality improvement measures. NCAP also leverages the mobilization of resources through convergence of Central Government schemes and programmes, such as, AMRUT 1.0 & 2.0, Swachh Bharat Mission 1.0 & 2.0, FAME II and Grand Challenge Scheme, Metro Rail under which funds have been disbursed to these cities for control of air pollution.

Further, various Ministries/ Departments of Govt. of India provide funding under their Schemes/ Programmes as per their budgets. During the period from 2018-19 to 2025-26, Rs. 4027.88 crores have been released to Punjab, Haryana, Uttar Pradesh and Delhi (Punjab-Rs. 2026.45 Crores, Haryana- Rs. 1156.71 crores, Uttar Pradesh- Rs.838.67 crores and NCT of Delhi- Rs. 6.05 Crores) by Ministry of Agriculture & Farmer's Welfare under Crop Residue Management scheme to address air pollution caused due to paddy stubble burning and to subsidize machinery required for management of crop residue. Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) provided financial assistance for establishment of 27 paddy straw based pelletisation and torrefaction plants (23 in Punjab, 04 in Haryana) with a capacity to utilise 5.16 lakh tonnes paddy straw annually.

5340 CNG/e-buses have been deployed for public transport in Delhi including 3535 e-buses. 2800 E-Buses and 1100 E-trucks have been allocated for Delhi under PM E-Drive scheme. Motor Vehicle Aggregators, Delivery Service Providers and E-Commerce Entities have been directed not to induct any conventional ICE vehicles running on diesel or petrol into their existing fleets of four-wheeler LCVs, four-wheeler LGVs (N1 category up to 3.5 tonnes) and two-wheelers from 01.01.2026 onwards. However, induction of BS-VI emission standard two wheelers has been permitted in existing fleets up to 31.12.2026. Based on the input received from MoHUA, under PM-eBus Sewa so far, a total of 450 electric buses has been sanctioned for participating cities (Faridabad, Gurugram, Rohtak, Panipat, Karnal & Alwar) of NCR region. By exclusively providing electric buses, the scheme helps in reducing emissions and promoting sustainable mobility. Further, amount of Rs. 66718.47 Crore has been released for Metro Rail/RRTS projects in Delhi and NCR region from FY 2014-15 and onwards.

Out of 240 industrial areas in Delhi-NCR, 224 industrial areas have been provided with PNG connectivity, 6 are provided through cascade system. Directions have been issued for mandating stringent emission norms for industries in NCR. CPCB has issued directions to DPCC/NCR SPCBs for Online Continuous Emission Monitoring System (OCEMS) installation in remaining air polluting Red categories (Medium & Large), common facilities and 17 category industries on 01.10.2025 and in Textile, food processing and metal industries on 09.10.2025. Regular inspection of industries has been carried out for the enforcement of emission norms and actions are taken against the violators. Out of 12,852 inspections of industrial units conducted so far in NCR region, 792 closure orders against the violating units have been issued.

Graded Response Action Plan (GRAP) is an emergency response action plan which calls for a set of emergent preventive/restrictive actions depending on the air quality of Delhi. Action targeting severe air pollution sources such as Construction and Demolition (C&D) waste dumping, Municipal Solid Waste (MSW) burning, vehicular pollution, industrial pollution are included under different stages of GRAP to prevent further deterioration of the air quality in the region.

Under Stage III of GRAP, strict restrictions were imposed on plying of BS-III petrol and BS IV diesel LMVs (four-wheelers) in Delhi and in the Districts of Gurugram, Faridabad,

Ghaziabad and Gautam Budh Nagar. Additionally, BS-IV and below diesel-operated LCVs registered outside Delhi were not permitted to enter Delhi, except those carrying essential commodities or providing essential services, and similar restrictions were imposed on Delhi registered diesel-operated MGVs of BS-IV standards or below.

All NCR States have prepared short term and long-term action plan for control of air pollution in Delhi NCR. The Government has regularly reviewed and monitored the actions taken to address air pollution including stubble burning related issues in Delhi-NCR and adjoining areas. Some of the recent key meetings are as below:

- i. Regular review meetings have been held on 08.08.2025, 16.09.2025, 10.10.2025, 11.11.2025, 26.11.2025, 03.12.2025, 15.12.2025, 16.12.2025, 17.12.2025, 19.12.2025, 06.01.2026, 12.01.2026, 20.01.2026 and 02.02.2026 under the chairmanship of the Hon'ble Minister for Environment, Forest and Climate Change, on the issues relating to air pollution control in Delhi-NCR, to deliberate upon the undertaking of air pollution abatement measures and strategies for further strengthening air quality management across the region. Special meeting has been convened with the Hon'ble Chief Minister and senior officials of Govt. of NCT of Delhi, to expedite pollution control measures under mission mode.
- ii. Minister level Inter-Ministerial meeting was held on 07.10.2025 under the Co chairmanship of Hon'ble Minister for Environment, Forest and Climate Change and Hon'ble Minister for Agriculture & Farmers' Welfare on the issues of management of Crop Residue Burning.

Further, States of Delhi-NCR have been directed to prepare comprehensive district-wise action plan for greening of urban areas including identification of forest areas, Protected Areas, Zoos, Community forests, revenue forests, Nagar Vans/Namo Parks, Identification and mapping of degraded forest lands. States of Rajasthan, UP, Haryana, Punjab and Delhi have prepared short term and long-term action plans to address various air pollution mitigation activities.
