

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 4378
TO BE ANSWERED ON 02.04.2026

Evaluation of measures for non-attainment cities

4378. SHRI JAGGESH:

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

- (a) whether it is a fact that Government is likely to achieve the targeted 40 per cent reduction in PM10 levels under the National Clean Air Programme (NCAP) by 2026, if not, the corrective measures being taken to address the shortfall;
- (b) whether the expansion of air quality monitoring network and utilization of funds under NCAP and the Fifteenth Finance Commission have significantly improved pollution control outcomes and if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the 'Airshed Approach' has been effectively implemented in the Indo-Gangetic Plain to tackle regional air pollution and the progress made in source apportionment studies across non-attainment cities; and
- (d) 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): To address air pollution in the country, the Government of India has launched the National Clean Air Programme (NCAP) in 2019 to improve air quality in 130 cities (non-attainment cities and Million Plus Cities) in 24 States/UTs by engaging all stakeholders. City Specific Clean Air Action Plans prepared by 130 cities under NCAP are being implemented to reduce air pollution sources like soil & road dust, vehicular emissions, construction & demolition activities, waste burning and industrial pollution, etc.

As on date 28 March 2026, a cumulative amount of ₹15,674.97 crore has been released to 130 cities under NCAP, including:

- ₹2,830.08 crore to 82 non-attainment cities under the Control of Pollution scheme of MoEF&CC
- ₹12,844.89 crore to 48 Million Plus Cities/Urban Agglomerations under the Million Plus Cities Air Quality Challenge Fund of the XV Finance Commission.

Committees at National Level (Apex, Steering, Monitoring and Implementation), State level (Steering and Monitoring) and City level Monitoring and Implementation Committee have been constituted to coordinate, monitor, evaluate the progress and provide guidance for implementation of city action plans including utilization of funds under National Clean Air Programme (NCAP) of Control of Pollution Scheme.

CPCB in collaboration with SPCBs/PCCs have established nation-wide network of 1,614 ambient air quality monitoring stations covering 584 cities in the country for measurement of ambient air quality in these cities.

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, 64 cities have shown reduction in PM₁₀ levels by more than 20% with respect to base year 2017-18 and 25 of these cities have achieved a reduction of more than 40%. A total of 22 Cities have met NAAQS and have PM₁₀ Concentrations less than 60 µg/m³.

With a view to abate and control air pollution in Delhi-NCR, the Commission for Air Quality Management in NCR and Adjoining Areas (CAQM) has adopted an air-shed-based approach to implement the air pollution control measures through coordinated actions of various agencies of Central, State and local Governments. Accordingly, all States under Delhi-NCR have prepared Short-term and long-term action plan under the coordination of CAQM, for prevention and mitigation of air pollution in Delhi-NCR. Under NCAP 90 Cities have completed source apportionment studies.
