

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1342
TO BE ANSWERED ON 30.07.2026

Air pollution in industrial towns

1342. SMT. RENUKA CHOWDHURY:

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

- (a) whether Government has taken note of severe air pollution levels in industrial towns across the country, including Byrnihat on Assam–Meghalaya border;
- (b) the details of top 50 most polluted cities/towns in the country during the last five years, indicating their annual average PM2.5 and PM10 levels and the major sources of pollution in each case;
- (c) whether Government has assessed the role of industrial concentration, transportation, geographical factors and urban planning practices in contributing to severe air pollution in industrial clusters; and
- (d) the details of funds allocated and utilised under various schemes for pollution mitigation during the last five years?

ANSWER

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

(a) to (d): Comprehensive Environmental Pollution Index (CEPI) has been formulated by CPCB, which is a number (ranging from 0 to 100) to characterize environmental quality at a given industrial area based on pollution sources, pathways and receptors.

The industrial area having aggregated CEPI scores 70 and above are considered as Critically Polluted Areas (CPAs), whereas CEPI scores ≥ 60 and < 70 are considered as Severely Polluted Areas (SPAs) and CEPI scores less than 60 are considered as Other Polluted Areas (OPAs).

During 2018, CPCB carried out CEPI assessment of 100 industrial areas, located in 21 States/UTs and identified 38 CPAs, 31 SPAs and 31 OPAs which includes Byrnihat with a CEPI score of 78.31 (Air Environmental Pollution Index (EPI): 67.00, Water EPI: 70.50 & Land EPI: 39.50) and categorized as CPA.

Further, CPCB directed all SPCBs/PCCs including Pollution Control Board, Assam and Meghalaya Pollution Control Boards to prepare and implement the Action Plan to restore and improve the environmental quality in all concerned CPAs & SPAs.

Accordingly, all concerned SPCBs/PCCs including Pollution Control Boards of Assam and Meghalaya prepared Action Plans.

CPCB has also developed “CEPI Action Plan Review portal” to review the implementation of action plan by concerned SPCBs/PCCs.

Assam Pollution Control Board vide letter dated 14.05.2025 prohibited the activities causing environmental degradation including hill cutting.

Assam Pollution Control Board vide circular dated 23.07.2025 directed for measures to be mandatorily undertaken by Industries located in the Byrnihat Critically Polluted Area for preventing and controlling fugitive emissions.

To further control pollution in the Byrnihat Critically polluted area falling in Meghalaya, the Government of Meghalaya on 06.07.2026 has imposed restrictions on establishment and expansion of polluting industries within the Byrnihat region. These include-

- Prohibition of new highly air polluting industrial/manufacturing units falling under the Red Category, including the 17 categories of highly polluting industrial sectors.
- Prohibition on expansion of production capacity of existing Red and Orange Category industries.
- New Orange Category industries may be permitted subject to adoption of modern clean technologies and cleaner fuel sources to ensure strict compliance with prescribed environmental norms.

Non-attainment cities have been identified based on the cities exceeding the National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS) for annual PM₁₀ levels for a consecutive period of 05 years. Under National Clean Air Programme (NCAP), 130 million plus/non-attainment cities have been covered for improvement of air quality through implementation of city specific clean air action plans. PM₁₀ and PM_{2.5} levels of 130 cities are enclosed at **Annexure-I**. Byrnihat is also one of the Non-Attainment city identified under NCAP.

Under NCAP, an amount of Rs.13.09 Crore has been released to Byrnihat for air quality improvement measures. Due to coordinated efforts, PM₁₀ concentrations in Byrnihat has reduced from 175 µg/m³ during 2017-18 to 105 µg/m³ in 2025-26 reflecting an overall reduction of 40%.

Air pollution is the collective result of multiple anthropogenic factors – vehicular and industrial emissions, dust from construction & demolition activities, roads and open areas, burning of biomass and municipal solid waste, landfill fires and other dispersed sources – compounded by adverse meteorological conditions.

To identify various factors contributing to air pollution and prioritise the air quality improvement measures under city action plans under NCAP, Source Apportionment (SA)

studies have been carried out in various cities under National Clean Air Programme (NCAP). Based on the Source apportionment (SA) studies conducted across various cities, it was observed that major contributors to PM₁₀ concentrations include road dust and construction activities (14–58%), vehicular emissions (10–33%), industrial sources (8–34%), and waste/biomass burning (8–29%).

Air quality performance-based incentive grant of ₹ 16,423.56 crore has been released to 130 cities under National Clean Air Programme (NCAP) as a critical gap funding to implement air pollution mitigation measures, during FY 2019-20 till 2025-26. So far, cities have reported the utilization of Rs.11,575.54 crore (70.5%) on PRANA portal.

Further, an amount of Rs. 63.25 crore has been released to 19 other NCR cities for implementing air quality improvement measures.

Further, 32 pelletisation plants have been sanctioned so far (25 in Punjab, 07 in Haryana) at a cost of Rs. 34.72 crore.

Under Nagar Van Yojana, 652 projects have been sanctioned in 28 States and 3 Union Territories of the country under Nagar Van Yojana at the total cost of Rs. 699.33 Crores. The focused and coordinated actions by 130 cities under NCAP have shown positive results with 108 cities recorded reductions in annual PM₁₀ concentrations during 2025-26, compared to 2017-18, with 72 cities achieving reductions of more than 20% and 26 cities achieving reductions of more than 40%. Further, 14 cities met the National Ambient Air Quality Standards in FY 2025-26 (Standards $\leq 60 \mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$), compared to six cities in 2017-18.

Further, an amount of Rs. 3,583.64 crore has been approved during last three years for compensatory afforestation, Assisted Natural Regeneration & Artificial Regeneration to States/UTs. An amount of Rs. 326.85 Crore have been allocated to fifteen States/UTs for creation of plantation/eco-restoration over an area of 31,114 ha during last 3 years (2023-24 to 2025-26) under Green India Mission (GIM).

**Average PM10 and PM2.5 Concentration of 130 Cities under NCAP for the year
2025-26**

Sl. No.	States	Cities	PM ₁₀ (in µg/m ³)	PM _{2.5} (in µg/m ³)
1	Andhra Pradesh	Anantapur	67	39
2		Chittoor	71	45
3		Eluru	61	30
4		Guntur	66	32
5		Kadapa	69	39
6		Kurnool	68	27
7		Nellore	49	25
8		Ongole	61	29
9		Rajamundry	74	35
10		Srikakulam	80	34
11		Vijayawada	68	40
12		Visakhapatnam	127	51
13		Vizhianagaram	82	32
14	Assam	Guwahati	76	41
15		Nagaon	70	40
16		Nalbari	74	43
17		Silchar	52	25
18		Sivasagar	42	23
19	Bihar	Patna	114	52
20		Gaya	97	42
21		Muzaffarpur	75	44
22	Chandigarh	Chandigarh	90	48
23	Chattisgarh	Korba	70	33
24		Durg Bhilainagar	55	23
25		Raipur	64	26
26	Delhi	Delhi	208	102
27	Gujarat	Ahmedabad	102	39
28		Rajkot	98	29
29		Surat	87	32
30		Vadodara	119	49
31	Haryana	Faridabad	176	91
32	Himachal Pradesh	Baddi	125	51
33		DamtaI	57	27
34		Kala Amb	94	43
35		Nalagarh	73	30

Sl. No.	States	Cities	PM ₁₀ (in µg/m ³)	PM _{2.5} (in µg/m ³)
36		Paonta Sahib	94	47
37		Parwanoo	48	10
38		Sunder Nagar	49	24
39	Jammu	Jammu	115	33
40		Srinagar	88	33
41	Jharkhand	Dhanbad	135	41
42		Jamshedpur	132	NM
43		Ranchi	109	NM
44	Karnataka	Bengaluru	78	31
45		Devanagere	51	26
46		Gulbarga / Kalaburgi	50	23
47		Hubli-Dharwad	61	23
48	Madhya Pradesh	Bhopal	108	42
49		Dewas	94	40
50		Gwalior	117	54
51		Indore	81	40
52		Jabalpur	77	34
53		Sagar	79	36
54		Ujjain	85	36
55	Maharashtra	Aurangabad	77	37
56		Akola	66	32
57		Amravati	75	30
58		Badlapur	104	43
59		Chandrapur	130	42
60		Greater Mumbai	83	33
61		Jalgaon	87	39
62		Jalna	85	40
63		Kolhapur	74	38
64		Latur	61	35
65		Nagpur	100	45
66		Nashik	80	36
67		Navi Mumbai	86	41
68		Pune	101	41
69		Sangli	83	36
70		Solapur	75	35
71		Thane	81	34
72		Ulhasnagar	106	48

Sl. No.	States	Cities	PM ₁₀ (in µg/m ³)	PM _{2.5} (in µg/m ³)
73		Vasai virar	73	32
74	Meghalaya	Byrnihat	105	53
75	Nagaland	Dimapur	110	50
76		Kohima	49	28
77	Odisha	Angul	112	53
78		Balasore	94	48
79		Bhubneshwar	99	47
80		Cuttack	104	48
81		Kalinga Nagar	96	55
82		Rourkela	94	50
83		Talcher	122	57
84	Punjab	Amritsar	96	44
85		Dera Baba Nanak	61	NM
86		Dera Bassi	99	NM
87		Jalandhar	105	47
88		Khanna	99	48
89		Ludhiana	124	53
90		Mandi Gobindgarh	123	63
91		Naya Nangal	60	NM
92		Patiala	95	39
93	Rajasthan	Jaipur	142	53
94		Alwar	104	43
95		Jodhpur	115	39
96		Kota	116	54
97		Udaipur	106	46
98	Tamil Nadu	Chennai	72	30
99		Madurai	48	17
100		Trichy	53	24
101		Tuticorin	71	26
102	Telangana	Hyderabad	80	34
103		Nalgonda	71	27
104		Sangareddy	78	34
105	Uttar Pradesh	Agra	131	66
106		Allahabad	106	38
107		Ghaziabad	202	97
108		Kanpur	100	48
109		Lucknow	136	59

Sl. No.	States	Cities	PM ₁₀ (in µg/m ³)	PM _{2.5} (in µg/m ³)
110		Meerut	160	67
111		Varanasi	77	33
112		Anpara	141	69
113		Bareilly	66	24
114		Firozabad	100	45
115		Gajraula	142	22
116		Gorakhpur	79	39
117		Jhansi	72	32
118		Khurja	155	52
119		Moradabad	99	46
120		Noida	184	90
121		Raebareli	80	38
122	Uttarakhand	Dehradun	101	51
123		Kashipur	81	48
124		Rishikesh	84	38
125	West Bengal	Asansol	85	46
126		Barrackpore	78	40
127		Durgapur	89	38
128		Haldia	80	42
129		Howrah	104	53
130		Kolkata	90	47
