

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2156
TO BE ANSWERED ON 06.08.2026

Clear air in Delhi

2156. DR. LAXMI KANT BAJPAI:

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

- (a) whether it is fact that, during 2025 residents of Delhi consistently breathed air that fell into unhealthy categories;
- (b) if so, the category-wise break-up of number of days during which Delhi recorded the hazardous, severe, unhealthy, moderate, poor and good days and the percentage of good days therein;
- (c) whether this situation reinforces that this is not a short-term pollution spike but a structural air quality crisis and the data prove that pollution is no longer seasonal inconvenience but a year-round reality; and
- (d) whether Government has any target date to achieve clean air for the residents of Delhi?

ANSWER

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

(a) to (d): Air Pollution in Delhi - National Capital Region (NCR) 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 especially during winter season.

During winter months, lower temperature, lower mixing heights, temperature inversion conditions and stagnant winds lead to trapping of the pollutants resulting in high pollution in the region. Incidences of paddy stubble burning in the northern States of Punjab, Haryana, NCR districts of UP and other areas in NCR also contribute to air pollution in Delhi-NCR, particularly during paddy harvesting season (October and November).

To address air pollution in Delhi-NCR, the Government has established the Commission for Air Quality Management (CAQM) under the Commission for Air Quality Management in NCR and Adjoining Areas Act, 2021, with statutory powers to take measures and issue directions to the agencies concerned in the region for protecting and improving air quality. CAQM has so far issued 101 Statutory Directions and 17 Advisories/executive orders to the Governments of NCR States/GNCTD and the agencies concerned, and their implementation is rigorously monitored through periodic progress reviews and follow-up orders and directions.

All NCR States have prepared short-term and long-term action plans for control of air pollution, covering sectoral interventions relating to vehicular pollution, road and construction dust, industrial emissions, waste management and stubble burning. The Government regularly reviews the actions taken under these plans, which are implemented through a “Whole of Government” and “Whole of Society” approach.

Due to these coordinated efforts, the number of good air quality days (AQI <200) in Delhi has increased from 110 days in 2016 to 200 days in 2025. Further, very poor days (AQI: 301-400) have reduced from 99 days to 71 days and severe days (AQI more than 401) have reduced from 25 days to 08 days in the year 2025 as compared to 2016.

The details of category-wise break up of Air Quality Index (AQI) of Delhi during the year 2025 is given below:

Category	Good	Satisfactory	Moderate	Poor	Very Poor	Severe
	AQI: 0-50	AQI: 51-100	AQI: 101-200	AQI: 201-300	AQI: 301-400	AQI: >401
No of days	0	79	121	86	71	8

The total number of good days (AQI up to 200) in 2025 were 200 days (**54.8%**) out of total 365 days. The data suggests that the poor air quality for Delhi is not a year-round reality, it gets aggravated during some episodic events.
