

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

LOK SABHA
UN-STARRED QUESTION NO. 100
TO BE ANSWERED ON 21.06.2019

Pollution in Cities

100. SHRI FEROZE VARUN GANDHI:

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

- (a) whether the Government is aware of the WHO report that states that 14 of the most polluted 20 cities of the world are in India;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the reaction of the Government thereto;
- (c) the steps taken by the Government to improve the situation; and
- (d) the steps the Government is taking or planning to take to promote the production and consumption of green crackers for Diwali 2019, as per the guidelines of the Supreme Court?

ANSWER

MINISTER FOR ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE
(SHRI PRAKASH JAVADEKAR)

- (a) to (c) The World Health Organization (WHO) released the WHO Global Ambient Air Quality Database (update 2018) which consists of mainly annual means for PM₁₀ and/or PM_{2.5}, covering more than 4000 human settlements in 108 countries for the years from 2010 to 2016. WHO does not rank countries / cities on the basis of air pollution data. However, arranging WHO database, as on date, for measures PM_{2.5} in descending order, 13 cities of India namely Kanpur, Faridabad, Gaya, Varanasi, Patna, Delhi, Lucknow, Agra, Gurgaon, Muzaffarpur, Jaipur, Patiala & Jodhpur has been listed.

The Central Government has launched National Clean Air Programme (NCAP) under the Central Sector “Control of Pollution” Scheme as a long-term, time-bound, national level strategy to tackle the air pollution problem across the country in a comprehensive manner. 102 non-attainment cities have been selected for formulation and implementation of city specific action plan under NCAP.

The several other measures taken by the Government to improve the air quality, *inter alia*, include following:

Plans and Directions

- Comprehensive Action Plan (CAP) identifying timelines and implementing agency for actions identified for prevention, control and mitigation of air pollution in Delhi and NCR has been notified.
- National Clean Air Programme (NCAP) under the Central Sector “Control of Pollution” Scheme as a time bound national level strategy to tackle air pollution problem across the country in comprehensive manner has been launched.

- 102 non-attainment cities for formulation and implementation of city specific action plan under NCAP have been identified.
- Graded Response Action Plan for different levels of air pollution in Delhi and NCR has been notified.
- A comprehensive set of directions have been issued under section 18 (1) (b) of Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1986 for implementation of 42/31 measures to mitigate air pollution in major cities including Delhi and NCR cities comprising of control and mitigation measures related to vehicular emissions, re-suspension of road dust and other fugitive emissions, bio-mass/municipal solid waste burning, industrial pollution, construction and demolition activities, and other general steps.

Monitoring

- Setting up of monitoring network for assessment of ambient air quality.

Notification of National Ambient Air Quality Standards.

- Launch of National Air Quality Index.
- Implementation of Air Quality Early Warning System for Delhi in October, 2018 in association with Ministry of Earth Sciences (MoES).

Transport

- Leapfrogging from BS-IV to BS-VI fuel standards since 1st April, 2018 in NCT of Delhi and from by 1st April, 2020 in the rest of the country.
- Introduction of cleaner / alternate fuels like gaseous fuel (CNG, LPG etc.), ethanol blending.
- Promotion of public transport and improvements in roads and building of more bridges to ease congestion on roads.
- Operationalisation of Eastern Peripheral Expressway & Western Peripheral Expressway to divert non-destined traffic from Delhi.
- Streamlining the issuance of Pollution Under Control Certificate.

Industry

- Badarpur thermal power plant has been closed from 15th October, 2018.
- All brick kilns have been shifted to zig-zag technology in Delhi and NCR.
- Installation of on-line continuous (24x7) monitoring devices all red category industries in Delhi and NCR.
- Revision of emission standards for industrial sectors from time to time.

Biomass and Solid Waste

- A new Central Sector Scheme on 'Promotion of Agricultural Mechanization for in-situ management of Crop Residue in the States of Punjab, Haryana, Uttar Pradesh and NCT of Delhi' for the period from 2018-19 and 2019-20 has been launched.
- Banning of burning of biomass.
- 3 Waste-to-Energy (W-t-E) plants are currently operational in Delhi with atotal capacity of 5100 Tonnes Per Day(TPD).
- Notifications of 6 waste management rules covering solid waste, plastic waste, e-waste, bio-medical waste, C&D waste and hazardous wastes issued in 2016.

Dust

- Notifications regarding dust mitigation measures for construction and demolition activities.

- Number of mechanised road sweeping machines has been increased significantly and presently 60 machines are deployed for cleaning of roads in Delhi.

Public Outreach

- Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change and Delhi Government launched Clean Air for Delhi Campaign from 10th – 23rd Feb 2018 and to check air polluting activities pre and post Diwali, a special campaign called “Clean Air Campaign” during November 01, 2018 to November 10, 2018.
- Ministry is promoting peoples participation and awareness building among citizens for environmental conservation through Green Goods Deeds that focus on promotion of cycling, saving water and electricity, growing trees, proper maintenance of vehicles, following of lane discipline and reducing congestion on roads by car pooling etc.
- Development of mechanism for redressal of public complaints regarding air pollution issues in Delhi and NCR (through ‘Sameer App’, ‘Emails’(aircomplaints.cpcb@gov.in) and ‘Social Media Networks’ (Facebook and Twitter) etc.

(d) With an objective to control air pollution due to bursting of firecrackers a consortium of CSIR laboratories is engaged in study to modify the constituents (chemical combination) of firecrackers with reduced potential source of particulate matters (PM₁₀ and PM_{2.5}) at least by 20–30%. Green firecrackers were demonstrated to firework manufacturers, Petroleum & Explosive Safety Organization and Central Pollution Control Board at CSIR-NEERI. Further PESO have accorded approvals to the firework manufacturers for manufacturing green cracker composition. Fireworks industry licensed by PESO have already started manufacture of fireworks with the new compositions.
