

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

**LOK SABHA**  
**UNSTARRED QUESTION No. 1936**  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 13.03.2023

**Most Polluted Cities/Towns**

1936. SHRI B.B. PATIL:  
SHRI VIVEK NARAYAN  
SHEJWALKAR:  
DR. BHARATIBEN DHIRUBHAI  
SHIYAL:  
SHRI SANJAY BHATIA:

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

- (a) whether the Government has identified the most polluted cities/towns in the country;
- (b) whether the air quality index of Delhi is mostly in severe category and if so, the remedial measures to be taken in this regard and whether the Government has any plan to prevent the increasing pollution so that future generation can be protected;
- (c) the details of such cities in the country including the level of pollution increased during the last two years and the reasons therefor, State-wise including status of metropolitan cities of Madhya Pradesh;
- (d) whether the Government has any proposal to stop the increasing pollution level of those cities and towns and if so, the steps taken/proposed to be taken in this regard;
- (e) whether air purifiers used to combat air pollution can reduce air pollution in major metropolitan areas only by 20 per cent, if so, the details thereof;
- (f) whether Air Quality of my parliamentary constituency Panipat city is very bad due to which the people of Panipat are suffering from many diseases and disorders; and
- (g) if so, whether the Government proposes to set up an air quality plant in my parliamentary constituency Panipat to improve air Quality and if so, the details thereof?

**ANSWER**

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE  
(SHRI ASHWINI KUMAR CHOUBEY)

(a) to (c) Government has identified 131 cities (including 123 non-attainment cities exceeding National Ambient Air Quality Standards) in the country under National Clean Air Programme for taking sustained actions for improving their air quality.

Air quality index of Delhi indicates an improvement in air quality in 2022 compared to 2016, as number days in Good, Satisfactory, Moderate category have increased and Poor to Severe days decreased in the year 2022 as compared to year 2016. Air Quality Index of Delhi is given as Annexure-I.

Out of the 131 cities, 95 cities have shown improvement in air quality in terms of Particulate Matter 10 (PM10) concentrations in FY 2021-22 with respect to base year FY 2017-18. 20

cities have met the NAAQS in the year 2021-22. Details of air quality status of 131 cities are enclosed as Annexure-II.

(d) The Government has launched National Clean Air Programme (NCAP) as a long-term, time-bound programme to reduce air pollution in a comprehensive manner with target to achieve upto 40% reduction in PM10 concentration level by the year 2025-2026 w.r.t. baseline of 2017-18. City specific clean air action plans under NCAP have been prepared and rolled out for implementation in these 131 non-attainment/million plus cities including Delhi. The specific clean air action plans target the city specific air polluting sources viz. vehicular emission, road dust, biomass/crop/garbage/MSW burning, construction activities, industrial emission and other city specific sources etc.

(e) to (g) In compliance to the orders of the Hon'ble Supreme Court, two experimental pilot projects of smog towers, one at Anand Vihar by Central Government and another at Connaught Place by Delhi Government are operational. Further utility/ replication in other cities including Panipat will depend on the performance results of smog towers and other relevant issues.

The ambient air quality of Panipat reveals that during 2022, out of 244 days, 197 days were under Good, Satisfactory and Moderate and only 47 days were under 'Poor'. There were no days in 'Severe' category of air quality index in Panipat.

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**Annexure I****Air Quality Index of Delhi  
(2016-2022)**

Category	Year	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
	No. of Days	354	365	365	365	366	365	365							
<b>Good (0-50)</b>		0	2	0	2	5	1	3	108	152	159	182	227	197	163
<b>Satisfactory (51-100)</b>		25	45	53	59	95	72	65							
<b>Moderate (101-200)</b>		83	105	106	121	127	124	95							
<b>Poor (201-300)</b>		120	115	114	103	75	80	130	246	213	206	183	139	168	202
<b>Very Poor (301-400)</b>		101	89	72	56	49	64	66							
<b>Severe (&gt;401)</b>		25	9	20	24	15	24	6							

## Ambient Air Quality status of 131 Non-Attainment Cities under NCAP

Ambient Air Quality status of 131 Non-Attainment Cities under NCAP (Integrated Annual Average Concentration of PM <sub>10</sub> )				
States	Sl. No.	Cities	2017-2018	2021-2022
			Average concentration (F.Y.) of PM <sub>10</sub> (µg/m <sup>3</sup> )	Average concentration (F.Y.) of PM <sub>10</sub> (µg/m <sup>3</sup> )
Andhra Pradesh	1	Anantpur	78	52
	2	Chittur	70	49
	3	Eluru	72	65
	4	Guntur	66	58
	5	Kadapa	75	54
	6	Kurnool	79	61
	7	Nellore	64	55
	8	Ongole	65	52
	9	Rajamahendrav aram	85	68
	10	Srikakulam	69	75
	11	Vijayawada	91	67
	12	Visakhapatnam	76	98
	13	Vizhianagaram	72	71
Assam	14	Guwahati	103	103
	15	Nagaon	82	104
	16	Nalbari	87	99
	17	Silchar	49	45
	18	Sivasagar	73	47
Bihar	19	Patna*	172	145
	20	Gaya*	79	97
	21	Muzaffarpur*	147	153
Chandigarh	22	Chandigarh*	114	97
Chattisgarh	23	Korba	57	61
	24	Durg Bhilainagar	86	58
	25	Raipur	70	61
Delhi	26	Delhi*	241	196
Gujarat	27	Ahmedabad	164	113
	28	Rajkot	150	116
	29	Surat	130	100
	30	Vadodara	133	121
Haryana	31	Faridabad*	-	209
Himachal Pradesh	32	Baddi	174	132
	33	Damtal	55	64
	34	Kala Amb	118	114
	35	Nalagarh	146	84

**Ambient Air Quality status of 131 Non-Attainment Cities under NCAP**  
(Integrated Annual Average Concentration of PM<sub>10</sub>)

States	Sl. No.	Cities	2017-2018	2021-2022
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	36	Paonta Sahib	84	90
	37	Parwanoo	66	35
	38	Sunder Nagar	78	47
<b>Jammu&amp;Kashmir</b>	39	Jammu	157	170
	40	Srinagar	-	111
<b>Jharkhand</b>	41	Dhanbad*	315	235
	42	Jamshedpur*	135	110
	43	Ranchi*	141	110
<b>Karnataka</b>	44	Bengaluru	92	67
	45	Devangere	74	57
	46	Gulbarga / Kalaburagi	55	84
	47	Hubli-Dharwad	79	68
<b>Madhya Pradesh</b>	48	Bhopal	112	116
	49	Dewas	83	81
	50	Gwalior	126	109
	51	Indore	82	103
	52	Jabalpur	101	115
	53	Sagar	73	79
	54	Ujjain	93	114
<b>Maharashtra</b>	55	Aurangabad	75	86
	56	Akola	111	64
	57	Amravati	102	66
	58	Badlapur	160	94
	59	Chandrapur	118	104
	60	Greater Mumbai	161	106
	61	Jalgaon	70	59
	62	Jalna	99	93
	63	Kolhapur	89	81
	64	Latur	82	57
	65	Nagpur	100	68
	66	Nashik	82	59
	67	Navi Mumbai	88	97
	68	Pune	102	85
	69	Sangli	87	60
	70	Solapur	81	60
	71	Thane	138	130

<b>Ambient Air Quality status of 131 Non-Attainment Cities under NCAP</b> (Integrated Annual Average Concentration of PM <sub>10</sub> )				
<b>States</b>	<b>Sl. No.</b>	<b>Cities</b>	<b>2017-2018</b>	<b>2021-2022</b>
			<b>Average concentration (F.Y.) of PM<sub>10</sub> (µg/m<sup>3</sup>)</b>	<b>Average concentration (F.Y.) of PM<sub>10</sub> (µg/m<sup>3</sup>)</b>
	72	Ulhasnagar	153	77
	73	Vasai virar	-	174
<b>Meghalaya</b>	74	Byrnihat	175	181
<b>Nagaland</b>	75	Dimapur	142	84
	76	Kohima	127	69
<b>Odisha</b>	77	Angul	97	97
	78	Balasore	84	74
	79	Bhubneshwar	85	95
	80	Cuttack	93	90
	81	Kalinga Nagar	109	114
	82	Rourkela	99	106
	83	Talcher	113	81
<b>Punjab</b>	84	Amritsar*	189	118
	85	Dera Baba Nanak*	79	71
	86	Dera Bassi*	88	98
	87	Jalandhar*	178	130
	88	Khanna*	142	106
	89	Ludhiana*	168	150
	90	Mandi Gobindgarh*	148	122
	91	Naya Nangal*	87	70
	92	Patiala*	106	109
<b>Rajasthan</b>	93	Jaipur	172	126
	94	Alwar	152	112
	95	Jodhpur	189	161
	96	Kota	139	112
	97	Udaipur	127	122
<b>Tamil Nadu</b>	98	Chennai	66	57
	99	Madurai	72	53
	100	Trichy	88	45
	101	Tuticorin	123	67
<b>Telangana</b>	102	Hyderabad	110	88
	103	Nalgonda	59	70
	104	Patencheru	74	76
	105	Sangareddy	85	83
	106	Agra*	202	146
	107	Allahabad*	169	119

<b>Ambient Air Quality status of 131 Non-Attainment Cities under NCAP</b> (Integrated Annual Average Concentration of PM <sub>10</sub> )				
<b>States</b>	<b>Sl. No.</b>	<b>Cities</b>	<b>2017-2018</b>	<b>2021-2022</b>
			<b>Average concentration (F.Y.) of PM<sub>10</sub> (µg/m<sup>3</sup>)</b>	<b>Average concentration (F.Y.) of PM<sub>10</sub> (µg/m<sup>3</sup>)</b>
<b>Uttar Pradesh</b>	108	Ghaziabad*	285	216
	109	Kanpur*	227	170
	110	Lucknow*	253	148
	111	Meerut*	159	186
	112	Varanasi*	230	114
	113	Anpara*	175	154
	114	Bareilly*	207	175
	115	Firozabad*	247	137
	116	Gajraula*	204	155
	117	Gorakpur*	150	122
	118	Jhansi*	109	128
	119	Khurja*	195	173
	120	Moradabad*	222	155
	121	Noida*	229	203
122	Raebareli*	145	112	
<b>Uttarakhand</b>	123	Dehradun	250	146
	124	Kashipur	99	119
	125	Rishikesh	129	117
<b>West Bengal</b>	126	Asansol*	147	112
	127	Barrackpore*	86	85
	128	Durgapur*	m150	168
	129	Haldia*	92	94
	130	Howrah*	139	125
	131	Kolkata*	147	105

**Note:-** \*Cities comes Indo-Gangetic Plain (IGP)

- 95 Cities out of 131 non-attainment cities are showing reduction in PM<sub>10</sub> concentrations.
- 20 Cities are meeting NAAQS standards (60 µg/m<sup>3</sup>) for PM<sub>10</sub> concentrations.
- 33 cities out of 131 non-attainment cities are showing no reduction in PM<sub>10</sub> concentrations.
- Percentage reduction in PM<sub>10</sub> conc. is in the range of 1-50%.
- 41 Cities are in Indo-Gangetic Plain (IGP).