

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 3129
TO BE ANSWERED ON 20.03.2023

Ban on the use of Coal

3129. SHRI SUDHAKAR TUKARAM
SHRANGARE:

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

- (a) whether the Government is aware that a large number of industries are still using unapproved fuel including coal;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government has taken any steps to ban the use of coal in industrial and domestic applications and other miscellaneous applications and if so, the reasons for its lackadaisical implementation; and
- (d) the steps taken by the Government to find a permanent solution to the air pollution problem in the mega cities of the countries?

ANSWER

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

(a) & (b)
Commission for Air Quality Management (CAQM) in NCR and Adjoining Areas has notified a list of approved fuels to be used by industries in NCR.

Of a total of about 7,760 fuel based industries presently operating in NCR, 4082 industries have opted for running their operations with PNG and the balance are now running on biomass based fuels / fuel other than PNG including coal. Only about 320 industrial units across entire NCR have temporarily ceased their operations on their own, beyond 31.12.2022, till they also migrate to cleaner fuels as per the approved fuel list.

(c) & (d)
With a view to abate air pollution in the Delhi-NCR region, shifting of industrial and commercial applications to cleaner mode of fuels like PNG etc. has been a priority of the Central Government and State Government in the NCR. Coal being the most heavily polluting fuel, it been decided to phase out its use from entire NCR in industrial, domestic and miscellaneous applications (barring use of low Sulphur coal only in thermal power plants), towards aiming for an overall improved air quality in the region. Accordingly, the Commission for Air Quality Management (CAQM) in NCR and Adjoining Areas has finalized a policy to curb 'air pollution menace occurring every year in Delhi and National

Capital Region'. The policy *inter-alia* contains approved fuel list for the Delhi-NCR whereby heavily polluting fossil fuels like coal etc. have been proposed to be banned w.e.f. 01.01.2023 in the entire NCR.

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 by the concerned stakeholders including State Governments. 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. NCAP strategy includes the following actions:

- (i) Clean Air Action Plans at National, State and City levels for source specific mitigation actions;
- (ii) Financial incentive structure for targeted cities linked with air quality improvement performance (49 cities under XVth Finance Commission grants and 82 cities funded under NCAP)
- (iii) Coordinated actions by Central Ministries and State Governments and their agencies;
- (iv) Convergence of resources from schemes of Central Government, State Government and Urban Local Bodies;
- (v) Building of a mass movement – Jan Andolan.
