

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

**LOK SABHA**  
**UNSTARRED QUESTION No. 1377**  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 11.12.2023

**Air Quality Report**

1377. ADV. A.M. ARIFF:

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

- (a) whether the Government is aware that 3 of the first 10 most polluted cities of the World are in India with Delhi and Kolkata at the top positions;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and action take thereon;
- (c) whether it is true that none of the major Indian city met the air quality standards prescribed by the World Health Organization and if so, the action taken thereon;
- (d) whether the Government has taken any measure to control the emission of pollutants to the atmosphere in cities across India and if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) whether the Government intends to review the National Air Control Programme (NACP) and the targets set thereunder 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 (e):**

Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change provides ranking of better performing cities every year under “Swachh Vayu Sarvekshan” for 131 Cities/ULB’s covered under National Clean Air Program (NCAP) based on the framework for taking various measures to abate pollution from solid waste, control of road dust, construction and demolition waste, vehicular emissions, industrial emissions including improvement in PM10 concentrations.

National Clean Air Programme (NCAP) has been launched in January, 2019 which is a long-term, time-bound national level strategy for prevention, control and abatement of air pollution. Under NCAP, it has been envisaged to achieve targets of 20 to 30% reduction in Particulate Matter concentrations by 2024 in 131 cities of 24 States/UTs with respect to base year 2017. Subsequently, the target has been revised to achieve up to 40% reduction or achieve National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS) in terms PM concentrations by 2025-26.

Under NCAP, 131 targeted cities have been mandated to prepare City Action Plan to take measures to improve air quality in respective cities. All 131 cities have prepared City Action Plans to address air pollution arising from various sectors viz. vehicular emissions, road dust, construction, solid waste management and industrial pollution.

Government of India notified National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS) for 13 parameters under The Environment (Protection) Rules, 1986 vide G.S.R. 826(E) on 16<sup>th</sup> November, 2009. Air quality monitoring in the country is carried out as per the National Standards. Further, air pollution reduction targets are set under NCAP based on the National Ambient Air Quality Standards. World Health Organisation (WHO) Air Quality Guidelines are guidance to policy makers and not legally binding.

Due to implementation of City Action Plans under NCAP, 90 Cities out of 131 Cities have shown improvement in air quality in terms of annual PM10 concentrations in FY 2022-23 with respect to the baseline of FY 2017-18. 15 cities have met National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS) for PM10 (60 µg/m<sup>3</sup>) in FY 2022-23. Details of Air Quality Index in 10 cities/towns having highest levels as well as that of Delhi and Kolkata, measured during the month of October, 2023 are placed at **Annexure I**.

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**Annexure – I****Details of Air Quality Index (AQI) in 10 cities/towns having highest AQI levels including Delhi and Kolkata in October, 2023**

<b>S. No</b>	<b>Name of the City and State / Union Territory</b>	<b>Average AQI for the month of October 2023</b>
1	Greater Noida, Uttar Pradesh	258
2	Sonipat, Haryana	246
3	Bahadurgarh, Haryana	231
4	Muzaffarnagar, Uttar Pradesh	227
5	Delhi, Delhi	216
6	Hanumanagar, Rajasthan	213
7	Faridabad, Haryana	212
8	Bhiwadi, Rajasthan	208
9	Noida, Uttar Pradesh	202
10	Byrnihat, Meghalaya	199
<b>Air Quality in Kolkata (AQI)</b>		
1.	Kolkata, West Bengal	102