

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF HOUSING AND URBAN AFFAIRS  
LOK SABHA**

**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1013**

**TO BE ANSWERED ON FEBRUARY 08, 2024**

**POLLUTION DUE TO URBANISATION**

**NO. 1013. SHRI MAHESH SAHOO:**

**Will the Minister of HOUSING AND URBAN AFFAIRS be pleased to state:**

- (a) whether the Government is aware of the fact that urbanisation is leading to increased pollution in cities and towns;**
- (b) if so, the steps taken/being taken by the Government to address the situation in collaboration with other agencies; and**
- (c) whether the Government is considering bringing changes in construction materials and if so, the details thereof?**

**ANSWER**

**THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE  
MINISTRY OF HOUSING AND URBAN AFFAIRS  
(SHRI KAUSHAL KISHORE)**

**(a) to (c) : India is undergoing rapid urbanization. It is estimated that its urban population will almost double by 2050. While urbanization is positively correlated with economic growth and it is estimated that our cities contribute close to 2/3<sup>rd</sup> of the country's GDP, rapid pace of urbanization does come with concomitant challenges of which pollution is one.**

**In order to deal with such environmental challenges, the revised National Mission for Sustainable Habitat (NMSH) was launched by the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA) in 2021. NMSH is one of the eight National Missions under the National Action Plan on Climate Change (NAPCC) post the Paris Agreement. The Mission targets goals in 5 broad areas - water and wastewater management; waste management; mobility and air quality; energy and green buildings; and urban planning, green cover and bio-diversity.**

**In order to meet these goals, MoHUA works with States and cities on a series of programs. While Swachh Bharat Mission – Urban (SBM-U) 2.0 is focused on improving sanitation and waste management practices across urban India, Atal Mission for Rejuvenation and Urban Transformation (AMRUT) 2.0 is aimed at ensuring good quality water supply and better sewage and septage management. The Smart Cities Mission (SCM) has not only promoted non-motorized transport, walkability and cyclability, it has also made significant interventions in renewable sources of energy, electric mobility, green spaces development, and in managing environmental pollution. Metro Rail is either operational or under construction in 27 cities of the country. MoHUA has recently launched the PM-eBUS Sewa scheme to introduce 10,000 electric buses in more than 100 cities.**

**Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEF&CC) has launched National Clean Air Programme (NCAP) in January 2019 as a long-term, time-bound, national level strategy to tackle the air pollution problem across the country in a comprehensive manner. NCAP, covering 132 cities, targets to achieve 20% to 30% reduction in concentrations of PM10 (particulate matter of diameter between 10 and 2.5 micrometer) and PM2.5 (particulate matter of diameter 2.5 micrometer or less) by the year 2024, keeping 2017 as the base year for comparison of concentration.**

**The 15th Finance Commission has recommended providing grants specifically aimed at air quality improvement in Million Plus Cities/ Urban Agglomerations with more than Million-Plus population (MPCs/ UAs), allocated ₹ 12,139 crore for FY 2021-22 to 2025-26. These funds are allocated to all MPCs/UAs of the States except for Kannur, Kochi, Kollam, Kozhikode, Malappuram, Thiruvananthapuram, and Thrissur in Kerala and, Coimbatore in Tamil Nadu as ambient air quality is not a major problem in these eight UAs. MoEF&CC is responsible for monitoring the progress and allocating funds based on performance, with the Ministry of Finance directly releasing the funds to State Governments. Grants are to be distributed based on improvements in air quality, particularly focusing on the reduction of PM-10 and PM-2.5 levels.**

**Apart from its national programs, MoHUA has launched the ClimateSmart Cities Assessment Framework (CSCAF) to help improve the performance of cities on climate parameters. 226 cities are part of the ongoing 3<sup>rd</sup> cycle of the assessment exercise.**

**The Building Materials and Technology Promotion Council (BMTPC), an autonomous organization under the aegis of MoHUA is mandated to identify, evaluate and promote emerging construction systems suiting different geo-climatic conditions of the country. The Technology Sub-Mission (TSM) under Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana - Urban (PMAY-U) Mission envisages to facilitate the adoption of modern, innovative and green technologies and building materials for faster and quality construction of houses. Central Public Works Department (CPWD) has also published Schedule of rates for new technologies with an objective to give impetus to their use.**

**MoHUA has established various strategic partnerships with Multilateral/Bilateral agencies, partner organizations in these fields to bring together diverse skills, strengths, and resources for implementing projects, sharing knowledge & good practices, and scaling up transformative action to prevent environmental pollution in the country.**

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