

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION No. 426
ANSWERED ON 05.02.2024

Funds for Clean and Pollution Free Environment

426. SHRI BHOLA SINGH

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

- (a) whether the Government has agreed to provide an incentive of Rs. 255.12 crore to five million-plus cities to improve the air quality of urban life and foster a cleaner, pollution-free environment in Uttar Pradesh;
- (b) If so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government has been steadily working towards ensuring cleanliness and reducing pollution in the cities of the country;
- (d) if so, the progress made in this regards so far;
- (e) the other steps being taken by the Government in this regard?

ANSWER

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

(a) to (e): 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 with respect to the base year 2019-20. Cities are provided with funds to support implementation of respective City Action Plans for taking measures to improve air quality. All 131 cities/ULBs have prepared the City Action Plans under NCAP.

An amount of Rs. 395 crore has been allocated to 7 million-plus cities namely, Agra, Allahabad, Ghaziabad, Kanpur, Lucknow, Meerut and Varanasi for the FY 2023-24 under 15th Finance Commission air quality grant for implementing City Action Plans to improve air quality. Out of the allocated amount, the grant of Rs. 278.27 crore was recommended to be released to these cities, which includes an incentive grant of Rs. 138.27 crore.

Due efforts taken 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/m³) in FY 2022-23. Details of the cities that have shown improvement are placed at **Annexure-I** .

Details of the other steps taken to achieve the targets under NCAP in a time bound manner are placed at **Annexure –II**.

Annexure-I

**Details of progress made by 131 cities in the improvement of air quality in the
FY 2022-23 as against FY 2017-18**

S. No.	Cities	No. of Cities/Towns	Improvement in PM₁₀ concentrations in FY 2022-23 as against FY 2017-18, (%)
1	Varanasi, Firozabad, Tuticorin, Dehradun, Moradabad, Bareilly, Trichy, Nalagarh, Ahmedabad, Akola, Kohima, Sivasagar, Agra, Lucknow, Sunder Nagar	15	>40
2	Rajkot, Kanpur, Amritsar, Dimapur, Dhanbad, Latur, Kolkata, Srinagar, *Amravati, Gorakpur, Ghaziabad	11	>30-40
3	Raebareli, Jalandhar, Parwanoo, Greater Mumbai, Naya Nangal, Khanna, Anantapur, Dera Baba Nanak, Bengaluru, Allahabad, Chittur, Byrnihat, Hyderabad, Nashik, Ranchi, Kadapa, Alwar, Khurja, Jodhpur, Vadodara, Ongole, Kala Amb, Sangli	23	>20-30
4	Rishikesh, Rajamahendravaram, Kurnool, Durg Bhilainagar, Talcher, Devangere, Jaipur, Baddi, Thane, Ulhasnagar, Delhi, Nellore, Noida, Mandi Gobindgarh	14	>10-20
5	Kolhapur, Howrah, Surat, Guntur, Badlapur, Eluru, Kota, Faridabad*, Durgapur, Nalgonda, Jamshedpur, Solapur, Jalna, Pune, Jalgaon, Madurai, Anpara, Gajraula, Kalinga Nagar, Hubli-Dharwad, Nagpur, Ludhiana, Patiala, Balasore, Barrackpore, Vijayawada, Haldia	27	1-10
6	Silchar, Chennai, Asansol, Jammu, Udaipur, Angul, Sangareddy, Chandigarh, Chandrapur, Srikakulam, Guwahati, Vizhianagaram, Patencheru, Jhansi, Bhopal, Meerut, Raipur, Patna, Cuttack, Kashipur, Sagar, Gwalior, Navi Mumbai, Damtal, Dera Bassi, Muzaffarpur, Ujjain, Paonta Sahib, Korba, Jabalpur, Dewas, Rourkela, Indore, Gulburga, Bhubneshwar, Aurangabad, Nalbari, Nagaon, Visakhapatnam, Vasai Virar, Gaya	41	<1
Total		131	

Other Steps taken by the Government to improve air quality

I. Vehicular Emissions:

- i. Leapfrogging from BS-IV to BS-VI norms for fuel and vehicles since April, 2018 in NCT of Delhi and from 1st April, 2020 for rest of the country.
- ii. Network of metro rails for public transport are enhanced and more cities are covered.
- iii. Development of Expressways and Highways are also reducing the fuel consumption and pollution.
- iv. Eastern Peripheral Expressway & Western Peripheral Expressway has been operationalized to divert non destined traffic from Delhi.
- v. Ban on all diesel vehicles older than 10 years and all petrol vehicles older than 15 years, in Delhi and NCR. (Hon'ble SC order dated 29.10.2018).
- vi. Environment protection charges (EPC) have been imposed on diesel vehicles with engine capacity of 2000cc and above in Delhi NCR.
- vii. Introduction of cleaner/alternate fuels like CNG, LPG, ethanol blending in petrol.
- viii. Permit requirement for electric vehicles has been exempted.
- ix. Promotion of public transport and improvements in roads and building of more bridges to ease congestion on roads.
- x. RFID (radio-frequency identity) system implemented by South Delhi Municipal Corporation (SDMC) for collection of toll and Environment Compensation Charges from commercial vehicles entering Delhi.
- xi. Introduction of BS VI compliant vehicles across the country since April, 2020.
- xii. Sustainable Alternative Towards Affordable Transportation (SATAT) has been launched as an initiative to set up Compressed Bio-Gas (CBG) production plants and make CBG available in the market for use in automotive fuels.
- xiii. Subsidy on e-vehicles under Faster Adoption and Manufacture of (Hybrid &) Electric Vehicles in India (FAME -II India) scheme of Ministry of Heavy Industries is provided.
- xiv. Installation of Vapour Recovery System (VRS) in new and existing petrol pumps. Selling gasoline >100kl per month in million plus cities and those selling >300kl per month in cities with population between 1 lakh to 1 million.

II. Industrial Emissions:

- i. Notification regarding SO₂ and NO_x emission standards have been issued for Thermal Power Plants.
- ii. Ban on use of pet coke and furnace oil as fuel in NCR States since October 24, 2017 and ban on use of imported pet coke in the country since July 26, 2018, with exception for use in permitted processes (processes in cement plants, lime kilns and calcium carbide manufacturing units).
- iii. Shifting of industrial units to PNG.
- iv. Installation of online continuous emission monitoring devices in highly polluting industries.
- v. Brick kilns shifting to zig-zag technology or vertical shaft or use Piped Natural Gas as fuel in brick making to reduce pollution.
- vi. System and Procedure for Emission Compliance Testing of Retro-fit Emission Control Devices (RECD) for Diesel Power Generating Set Engines up to Gross Mechanical Power 800 kW developed.
- vii.

- viii. Development of low carbon strategies across sectors such as phasing out older coal-based power plants, compliance of standards, City Gas Distribution (CGD) network, emphasis on improved power reliability in urban areas, etc.
- ix. Developing an eco-system for processing biomass/agriculture residue as fuel in industrial applications in Delhi-NCR.
- x. Uniform and affordable PNG pricing policy for aggravating use PNG as fuel in industrial applications in Delhi-NCR.

III. Air Pollution due to dust and burning of waste:

1. Notification of eight waste management rules covering solid waste, plastic waste, e-waste, waste tires, bio-medical waste, C&D waste, hazardous waste and battery waste.
2. Setting up infrastructure such as waste processing plants.
3. Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) for plastic and e-waste management has been mandated on producers.
4. Ban on burning of biomass/garbage.
5. Bio-mining of three dumpsites at Bhalswa, Okhla and Ghazipur is being carried out.
6. Under 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', agricultural machines and equipment for in-situ crop residue management are promoted with 50% subsidy to the individual farmers and 80% subsidy for establishment of Custom Hiring Centres.
7. The Commission for Air Quality Management in NCR and Adjoining Areas (CAQM) on 17.09.2021 directed the coal-based Thermal Power plants situated up to a radius of 300 Km of Delhi to co-fire biomass-based Pellets, Torrefied Pellets/Briquettes (with focus on paddy straw) with Coal (up to 5-10%).
8. Guidelines prepared for providing one-time financial assistance for establishment of paddy straw based palletization and torrefaction plants, under which individuals/entrepreneurs / companies, interested in setting up palletization and torrefaction plants, using only paddy straw generated in the NCT of Delhi, States of Punjab & Haryana and NCR districts of Rajasthan & Uttar Pradesh can submit an application for obtaining a one-time grant on capital investment.
9. Guidelines issued for supporting Municipal Corporations of the states of Punjab, Haryana, NCT of Delhi and NCR districts of Uttar Pradesh and Rajasthan, for establishing paddy straw based briquetting plants, for use of paddy straw-based briquettes for cremation purpose only.
10. Daily monitoring of Active Fire Events (AFE) is done during stubble burning period and reports are shared with Commission on Air Quality Management in National Capital Region and Adjoining areas for suitable action.