

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION No. 842
TO BE ANSWERED ON 23.07.2021

Improvement in Air Quality

842. SHRI SUNIL KUMAR SONI:

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

- (a) the manner in which any city is identified under a central sector scheme as per its air pollution level;
- (b) the names of cities of Chhattisgarh identified for improvement in air quality by the Central Pollution Control Board; and
- (c) the total amount allocated for cities of Chhattisgarh during the financial year 2020-21 as per the recommendations of 15th Finance Commission along with the parameters set to utilize/spend the allocated amount?

ANSWER

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

(a)
Based on air quality levels exceeding National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS) during the period from 2015 to 2019, 124 non-attainment cities (NACs) have been identified by Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB). Further, 42 Million plus Population Cities (MPCs) have been identified for focused air quality management under 15th Finance Commission grants. Out of these 42 MPCs, 34 are non-attainment cities. At present city action plans have been rolled out for implementation in all 132 identified cities.

Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEF&CC) has launched National Clean Air Programme (NCAP) on 10 January, 2019 as a national level strategy for pan India implementation to reduce air pollution levels across the country. NCAP is a mid-term, five-year action plan with 2019 as the first year. Taking into account the available international experiences and national studies, the tentative national level target of 20%–30% reduction of PM_{2.5} and PM₁₀ concentration by 2024 is envisaged under the NCAP.

Rs 376.5 crore have been sanctioned to non-attainment cities under NCAP for FY 2019-21. Rs 4400 crore have been released so far as grants as per the recommendations of the 15th Finance Commission to tackle the burgeoning problem of air pollution for 42 cities/ urban agglomerates (UAs) having million plus population as per Census 2011.

(b)

Out of 124 non-attainment cities, 3 NACs of Chhattisgarh namely Bhilai, Raipur and Korba are identified for improvement in air quality by Central Pollution Control Board.

(c)

As per recommendations of 15th Finance Commission during the financial year 2020-21, Rs 52 Cr and Rs 55 Cr have been allotted to Durg Bhilainagar and Raipur respectively. The funds are utilized on the activities mentioned under CPCB approved city action plans and micro action plans details of which is available at <https://cpcb.nic.in/approved-city-action-plans>.
