

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

**LOK SABHA**  
**STARRED QUESTION NO. 117**  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 06.12.2021

**Pollution in Bihar**

\*117. SHRIMATI RAMA DEVI:

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

- (a) whether the cities of Bihar are facing the problem of rising level of pollution;
- (b) if so, the city-wise details thereof;
- (c) the steps taken by the Government to solve the said problem in these cities; and
- (d) the extent to which the success has been achieved as a result thereof?

**ANSWER**

**MINISTER FOR ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE**  
**(SHRI. BHUPENDER YADAV)**

(a) to (d) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

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**STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARAS (a) TO (d) OF THE LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 117 FOR 06.12.2021 REGARDING “POLLUTION IN BIHAR” RAISED BY SHRIMATI RAMA DEVI, HON’BLE M.P.**

**(a) to (d):**

Air pollution and water pollution are the growing environmental challenges globally.

**Air Pollution**

Cities in Indo Gangetic Plains face the problem of poor air quality particularly during winter months due to adverse meteorological conditions. Three cities of Bihar, namely Patna, Gaya & Muzaffarpur have been identified as Non-attainment cities under National Clean Air Programme (NCAP) based on air quality levels exceeding National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS) for consecutive 05 years.

The analysis of last 3-year air quality data (CAAQMS) of cities in Bihar shows that there is a decline in annual average concentration of PM 2.5 in three cities of Bihar in 2020 over 2018 levels. Air quality data of Patna, Gaya and Muzaffarpur is enclosed at **Annexure I**.

Government of India has launched National Clean Air Programme (NCAP) as a national level strategy to reduce air pollution levels across the country. City Specific Clean Air Action Plans have been prepared for the above identified 132 non-attainment and million plus cities including three cities of Bihar (Patna, Gaya and Muzaffarpur) and is rolled out for implementation in these cities.

These action plans focus on city specific short/ medium/ long term actions to control air pollution from sources such as vehicular emission, road dust, burning of biomass/ crop/ garbage/ Municipal Solid Waste, landfills, construction activities, industrial emission, etc. Further, Public Grievance Redressal System and Graded Response Action Plan have been developed, Source Apportionment study has been completed and City level implementation committees have also been constituted to monitor the progress of city action plan at ground level.

Under NCAP, a total amount of Rs. 10.20 Cr and Rs 7.00 Cr was released to Bihar State Pollution Control Board during F.Y. 2019-20 and 2020-21 respectively. Further, under XVFC an amount of Rs. 204 Cr for F.Y. 2020-21 was released to Patna ULB for improvement in air quality by Department of Expenditure, Ministry of Finance. The details are annexed at **Annexure II**.

Further, the several other steps taken by Government to control and minimize air pollution in the country is at **Annexure III**:

**Water Pollution**

**Six polluted river stretches** have been identified along 6 rivers in the country during the 2018 based on exceedance of Bathing Water Quality Criteria parameter of BOD (exceeding 3 mg/L), by analysis of water quality data for the years 2016 and 2017. Details of the six polluted river stretches and the cities/towns identified along the polluted river stretch in Bihar State is at **Annexure IV**.

Steps taken by the Government of India for control of water pollution are detailed at **Annexure V**.

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**Annexure-I****Ambient Air Quality Data of Bihar 2018-2020**

City	Annual Average Concentration in $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ (CAAQMS Data)								
	2018	2019	2020	2018	2019	2020	2018	2019	2020
	SO <sub>2</sub>			NO <sub>2</sub>			PM <sub>2.5</sub>		
Gaya	7	13	10	49	31	9	95	83	48
Muzaffarpur	40	19	16	62	33	22	109	118	74
Patna	37	42	8	46	42	33	121	106	67

**Annexure-II****Details of Grants received under NCAP during the Financial Year 2019-20 & 2020-21  
(Rs in crore)**

S.No	Cities	F.Y. 2019-20			F.Y. 2020-21			
		1 <sup>st</sup>	2 <sup>nd</sup>	Total	3 <sup>rd</sup>	4 <sup>th</sup>	Total	Total Cumulative
1.	Patna	6.00	4.00	10.20			7.00	17.20
2.	Gaya	0.06	0.04		2.00			
3.	Muzaffarpur	0.06	0.04		5.00			

**Details of Grants received under 15th Finance Commission during the F. Y. 2020-21  
(Rs. in Crores)**

S.No.	Cities	FY:2020-21		
		1 <sup>st</sup> Installment	2 <sup>nd</sup> Installment	Total
1.	Patna	102	102	204

**Vehicular Emission**

- Leapfrogging from BS-IV to BS-VI norms for fuel and vehicles since April, 2020.
- Network of metro rails for public transport are enhanced and more cities are covered.
- Development of Expressway and Highways are also reducing the fuel consumption and pollution.
- Introduction of cleaner/alternate fuels like CNG, LPG, ethanol blending in petrol.
- Faster Adoption and Manufacturing of Electric Vehicles (FAME) -2 scheme has been rolled out.
- Permit requirement for electric vehicles has been exempted.
- Promotion of public transport and improvements in roads and building of more bridges to ease congestion on roads.

**Industrial Emission**

- Stringent emission norms for Coal based Thermal Power Plants (TPPs).
- Shifting of industrial units to PNG.
- Installation of online continuous emission monitoring devices in highly polluting industries.
- Shifting of brick kilns to zig-zag technology for reduction of pollution

**Air Pollution due to dust and burning of waste**

- Notifications of 6 waste management rules covering solid waste, plastic waste, e-waste, bio-medical waste, C&D waste and hazardous waste.
- Setting up infrastructure such as waste processing plants.
- Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) for plastic and e-waste management.
- Ban on burning of biomass/garbage.

**Monitoring of Ambient Air Quality**

- Expansion of air quality monitoring network of manual as well as continuous monitoring stations under programmes such as National Air Monitoring Programme (NAMP).
- Initiation of pilot projects to assess alternate ambient monitoring technologies such as low-cost sensors and satellite-based monitoring.

**Monitoring implementation of NCAP**

- Government has launched National Clean Air Programme (NCAP) as a national level strategy to reduce air pollution levels across the country. City Specific Clean Air Action Plans have been prepared and rolled out for implementation in 132 non-attainment and million plus cities.
- ₹ 375.44 crores have been sanctioned to non-attainment cities under NCAP for initiating actions such as expansion of monitoring network, construction and demolition waste management facilities, non-motorised transport infrastructure, green buffers, mechanical street sweepers, composting units etc.
- As per the Fifteenth Finance commission recommendations ₹4400 crores have been released in the Budget of FY 2020-21 to tackle the burgeoning problem of air pollution for 42 urban centres with a million-plus population. Further, an amount of ₹12,139 crores has been allocated for improvement of air quality for the award period FY 2021-26.
- City Specific Action Plans for improvement of air quality has been prepared and approved for implementation.
- Implementation of the city specific action plans are regularly monitored by Committees at Central and State level namely Steering Committee, Monitoring Committee and Implementation Committee.
- PRANA a portal for monitoring implementation of NCAP has been launched.

**Annexure IV**

<b>S. No</b>	<b>River Name</b>	<b>Stretch Identified</b>	<b>Cities/ Towns Identified Along The Polluted Stretch</b>
1	Parmar	Along Jogbani	Jogbani
2	Ganga	Buxar To Bhagalpur	Buxar, Patna, Bhagalpur
3	Poonpun	Gaurichak To Fatuha	Jujharpur, Fatehpur, Madhopur, Sadullahpur, Fatuha, Patna
4	Ram Rekha	Harinagar To Ramnagar	Ramnagar, Harunagar
5	Sikrahna	Along Narkatiaganj	Narkatiaganj
6	Sirsia	RuxolToKoireaTola (Raxaul)	Raxaul

## Annexure V

- Govt. of India enacted The Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974 and various provisions under The Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 for protection of water bodies.
- The Central & State Pollution Control Boards are implementing the provisions of both The Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974 & The Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 to prevent and control pollution of aquatic resources
- Regulation of industrial Pollution is implemented through various provisions of The Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974 under Consent mechanism by the respective State Pollution Control Board (SPCB) and Pollution Control Committee (PCC).
- Directions have been issued under Section 5 of The Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 regarding 'Treatment and Utilization of Sewage for Restoration of water quality of River' to Municipal Corporations of 46 Metropolitan cities and 20 State Capitals in October, 2015.
- Directions have been issued under Section 18 (1) (b) of The Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974 regarding treatment & utilization of sewage to all SPCBs/PCCs in April, 2015.
- Directions have been issued under Section 18 (1) (b) of The Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974 on 13.8.2019 regarding non-compliance status of Common Effluent Treatment Plants (CETPs) to SPCBs/PCCs.
- Online Continuous Effluent Monitoring Systems (OCEMS) are installed by the industrial units in the country through directives for getting real time information on the effluent quality and non-complying unit were identified for follow-up inspections and actions.
- Government of India stipulated General discharge standards and industry specific effluent discharge standards under The Environment (Protection) Rules, 1986 with an aim to prevent pollution in the water bodies.
- Industrial estate and clusters numbering 100 were assessed in the country to assess Comprehensive Environmental Pollution Index (CEPI) in 2018. Based on Comprehensive Environmental Pollution Index (CEPI) score, the critically polluted areas are identified to take necessary measures through time-targeted Action Plans.
- Under AMRUT and Repair, Renovation and Restoration (RRR) schemes, Govt. of India is supporting States on cost sharing basis for development of infrastructure for sewage management and rejuvenating polluted rivers.
- Various programmes like National Lake Conservation Programme (NLCP), National River Conservation Programme (NRCP) have been launched by Government of India for restoration of water bodies including enhancement in ground water levels in the country apart from training programmes to the stakeholders under the National Hydrology Project.