

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

LOK SABHA
STARRED QUESTION No. 2
TO BE ANSWERED ON 29.11.2021

Policy on Air Pollution

*2.SHRI B. B.PATIL:

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

- (a) the details of current policy for regulating air quality and reducing air pollution across the country;
- (b) whether the Government has enacted stringent laws to control air pollution levels and penalise/punish violators of the said rules; and;
- (c) whether the Government proposes to provide any uniform pollution limit across the country as per standards of the World Health Organisation and if so, the details thereof along with the other steps taken by the Government to control and minimize air pollution in the country.

ANSWER

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

- (a) to (c): A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARAS (a) TO (c) OF THE LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 2 DUE FOR REPLY ON 29.11.2021 REGRADING 'POLICY ON AIR POLLUTION' RAISED BY SHRI B. B. PATIL, HON'BLE MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT

- (a) and (b) Air quality regulation and actions for abatement of air pollution are undertaken under various provisions of Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1981 and Environment (Protection) Act, 1986. Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change in 2019 has launched National Clean Air Programme (NCAP) with targets to achieve 20 to 30 % reduction in PM10 and PM2.5 concentrations by 2024 across the country. 15th Finance Commission also recommended for focused air quality management in 42 million plus cities/urban agglomerations.

Further, the Government has enacted The Commission for Air Quality Management in National Capital Region and Adjoining Areas Act, 2021 for constituting the Commission for Air Quality Management in National Capital Region and Adjoining Areas for better co-ordination, research, identification, and resolution of problems related to air quality in the National Capital Region (NCR) and adjoining areas.

The Government through act of parliament has enacted Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1981, Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 and The Commission for Air Quality Management in National Capital Region and Adjoining Areas Act, 2021 for prevention, control and protection of environment. Various rules have been made under these acts. In case of violation of any of the provisions of the said Acts and Rules framed thereunder, penal provisions are there.

- (c) National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS) have been notified for 12 pollutants in 2009 to protect public health and environment from air pollution. World Health Organisation (WHO) guidelines for ambient air quality are guidance to policy makers. Periodic revision of NAAQS is undertaken to include new advancements in air pollution monitoring and its health impact. Review of NAAQS is envisaged in order to align National Ambient Air Quality Standards with international practices.

Further, the several other steps taken by the Government to control and minimize air pollution in the country including Delhi-NCR is at **Annexure**.

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.
- Eastern Peripheral Expressway & Western Peripheral Expressway have been operationalised to divert non destined traffic from Delhi.
- All 10-year-old diesel vehicles are deregistered in Delhi NCR.
- Environment protection charges (EPC) have been imposed on diesel vehicles with engine capacity of 2000cc and above in Delhi NCR.
- 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).
- Ban on use of pet coke and furnace oil in NCR with restricted use of pet coke in cement plants, lime kilns and calcium carbide manufacturing units.
- 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.

Crop Residue Management

- 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.
- 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.

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.
- Implementation of Air Quality Early Warning System for Delhi, Kanpur and Lucknow. The system provides alerts for taking timely actions.

- Public Complaints regarding air pollution issues in Delhi NCR are taken through ‘Sameer App’, ‘Emails’(Aircomplaints.cpcb@gov.in) and ‘Social Media Networks’ (Facebook and Twitter).

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.
