

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

**LOK SABHA**  
**STARRED QUESTION No. 444**  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 04.04.2022

**Commission on Air Quality Management in NCR and Adjoining Areas**

\*444. SHRI PARVESH SAHIB SINGH VERMA:  
SHRI FEROZE VARUN GANDHI:

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

- (a) whether any discussions were held by the Commission on Air Quality Management in NCR and Adjoining Areas (CAQM) in concurrence with the appropriate stakeholders to mitigate the impact of pollution and if so, the details thereof along with the measures discussed and adopted ; and
- (b) whether the use of Cloud Seeding as an alternative means to mitigate air pollution was a part of discussion and if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether there are only 804 air quality monitors in the entire country and if so, the details thereof along with the urban- rural distribution of the existing monitors including the details of the current air quality monitor density;
- (d) whether the current air quality monitor density is adequate as per World Health Organisation and other international standards; and
- (e) whether the Government has taken efforts to expand air quality monitoring, especially in rural areas and if so, the details thereof?

**ANSWER**

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

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

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STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARAS (a) TO (e) OF THE LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 444 DUE FOR REPLY ON 04.04.2022 REGARDING 'COMMISSION ON AIR QUALITY MANAGEMENT IN NCR AND ADJOINING AREAS' RAISED BY SHRI PARVESH SAHIB SINGH VERMA & SHRI FEROZE VARUN GANDHI, HON'BLE MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT

**(a)& (b)**

The Commission on Air Quality Management in NCR and Adjoining Areas (CAQM) has adopted a participative & collaborative approach towards dealing with the issues of Air pollution in the region. In this direction, pursuant to the Hon'ble Supreme Court Order in W.P. (C) No. 1135/2020 "Aditya Dubey & Anr. V/s Union of India & Ors." the Commission invited suggestions from stakeholders including general public for medium and long term solutions for prevention and control of air pollution in the NCR. A good number of multi-sectoral issues and suggestions related to control of Air pollution have been received from different stakeholders & general public. An Expert Committee constituted to examine the suggestions, has been interacting with stakeholders/experts on a regular basis for adoption of measures for control of air pollution in the region.

In order to further deliberate upon the various factors impacting the air quality in the entire NCR, an 'Interactive Dialogue towards Clean Air' was organized by the Commission and MoEF&CC in collaboration with other stakeholders of NCR on 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> March, 2022 at Gurugram, Haryana. Apart from representatives of the Central Government, Government of NCR states / NCT Delhi and Government of Punjab, Members of Parliaments, representatives of the CPCB, State Pollution Control Boards / DPCC, DMs / DCs, and Municipal Corporations / Municipalities of the NCR, Industry Associations, NGOs and Academia / Experts attended and actively participated in the dialogue. The topics of discussion included:-

- (i) City Specific Action Plans
- (ii) Urban Solid Waste Management & Addressing legacy waste of Sanitary Landfill sites
- (iii) Management of Dust from Construction and Demolition activities
- (iv) Management of Dust from Road sides and Open Areas
- (v) Shifting of Industries and Transport to PNG/cleaner fuels- Expanding PNG Network and Supply
- (vi) E-Mobility - Potential solution for addressing Vehicular Pollution
- (vii) Ways to reduce emissions from Transport Sector
- (viii) Control of Emissions from Diesel Generator Sets
- (ix) Sustainable Agriculture Stubble Management includes transforming Waste Biomass into marketable products and Ex-situ Utilisation of Agricultural Stubble in coal based Thermal Power Plants
- (x) In-situ management of Agricultural Stubble through bio-decomposers
- (xi) Greening and Plantation Programme

Cloud Seeding as an alternative means to mitigate air pollution was not part of the discussion.

**(c) & (d)**

There are 1213 ambient air quality monitoring stations operating across the country covering 465 cities in 28 States and 7 Union Territories. Out of these, 880 stations are manual monitoring stations and covers 378 cities/towns. 333 Continuous Ambient Air Quality Monitoring Stations (CAAQMS) measuring real time air quality cover 172 cities/towns in 23 States and 4 Union Territories across the country. The details of current ambient air quality monitoring stations are given as **Annexure-I**.

26 monitoring stations are located in rural areas. The State and District-wise ambient air quality monitoring stations in the rural areas is given in **Annexure-II**.

The ambient air quality monitoring stations in the country are established as per the guidelines of CPCB. The siting of air quality monitoring stations are population based and the criteria include available resources and site specific parameters such as size of the area to be covered, variability in pollutants concentration etc. The criteria for designing the ambient air quality monitoring network is given as **Annexure-III**.

**(e)**

Air Quality Monitoring network of manual as well as continuous monitoring stations is expanded continuously under various programmes with the objective of deploying a sustained and robust monitoring system in the country.

The efforts taken by Government to strengthen air quality monitoring system in the country *inter alia* include:

- (i) 17 stations have been sanctioned for rural areas in 2021-22.
- (ii) National Clean Air Programme (NCAP) in 2019 as a national-level strategy to reduce air pollution levels in urban centres;
- (iii) Initiation of pilot projects to assess alternate ambient monitoring technologies such as low-cost sensors and satellite-based monitoring;
- (iv) Implementation of Air Quality Early Warning System for Delhi, Kanpur and Lucknow. The system provides alerts for taking timely actions;
- (v) ₹ 6705 Crores has been released during 2019-22 to 132 non-attainment and million plus population cities for tackling the problem of air pollution by implementation of City specific Action Plans (CAPs). These CAPs also include the establishment of air quality monitoring stations for developing the robust monitoring network.

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## ANNEXURE-I

ANNEXURE REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PART (c) & (d) OF THE LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 444 DUE FOR ANSWER ON 04.04.2022 REGARDING 'COMMISSION ON AIR QUALITY MANAGEMENT IN NCR AND ADJOINING AREAS' RAISED BY SHRI PARVESH SAHIB SINGH VERMA & SHRI FEROUZE VARUN GANDHI, HON'BLE MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT

## Ambient air quality stations (manual &amp; real-time stations)

Sl. No.	States & UTs	Number of stations	
		CAAQMS	NAMP
1.	Andaman & Nicobar (UT)	0	2
2.	Andhra Pradesh	6	72
3.	Arunachal Pradesh	1	2
4.	Assam	2	31
5.	Bihar	32	8
6.	Chandigarh (UT)	2	5
7.	Chattisgarh	2	17
8.	Dadara& Nagar Haveli and Daman & Diu (UT)	0	6
9.	Delhi (UT)	40	10
10.	Goa	0	18
11.	Gujarat	15	24
12.	Haryana	30	5
13.	Himachal Pradesh	0	25
14.	Jammu & Kashmir (UT)	1	29
15.	Jharkhand	1	10
16.	Karnataka	31	30
17.	Kerala	9	29
18.	Lakshadweep (UT)	0	1
19.	Madhya Pradesh	16	42
20.	Maharashtra	41	80
21.	Manipur	0	1
22.	Meghalaya	1	10
23.	Mizoram	1	19
24.	Nagaland	1	9
25.	Odisha	2	38
26.	Pondicherry (UT)	1	6
27.	Punjab	8	47
28.	Rajasthan	10	39
29.	Sikkim	0	9
30.	Tamilnadu	11	55
31.	Telangana	6	25
32.	Tripura	1	2
33.	Uttar Pradesh	48	84
34.	Uttarakhand	0	8
35.	West Bengal	14	82
	28 states & 7 UTs	333	880

## ANNEXURE-II

ANNEXURE REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PART (c)& (d) OF THE LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 444 DUE FOR ANSWER ON 04.04.2022 REGARDING 'COMMISSION ON AIR QUALITY MANAGEMENT IN NCR AND ADJOINING AREAS' RAISED BY SHRI PARVESH SAHIB SINGH VERMA & SHRI FEROZE VARUN GANDHI, HON'BLE MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT

**State and District-wise ambient air quality monitoring stations in the rural areas during 2020**

**(Manual monitoring)**

Sl. No.	State	Sl. No.	Village	District
1.	Dadra & Nagar Haveli and Daman & Diu	1.	Baldevi (Dadra & Nagar Haveli)	Dadara& Nagar Haveli
		2.	Patlara (Daman)	Daman
2.	Punjab	3.	Aligarh (Jagraon)	Ludhiana
		4.	AspalKhurd (Tapa)	Barnala
		5.	Bara Pind (Goraya)	Jalandhar
		6.	Binjon (Garshankar)	Hoshiarpur
		7.	Bishanpura (Payal)	Ludhiana
		8.	Changal (Sangrur)	Sangrur
		9.	Chowkimann (Jagraon)	Ludhiana
		10.	Fatehpur (Samana)	Patiala
		11.	Guru Ki Dhab (Kotkapura)	Faridkot
		12.	JaitoSarja (Batala)	Gurdaspur
		13.	Kharaori (Sirhind)	Fatehgarh Sahib
		14.	Kotladoo (Ajnala)	Amritsar
		15.	LakhokeBehram (Ferozpur)	Ferozpur
		16.	MrarKalan (Muktsar)	Muktsar
3.		17.	Mukandpur (Nawashahar)	Nawashahar / ShahidBhagat Singh Nagar
		18.	Mureedke (Batala)	Gurdaspur

<b>Sl. No.</b>	<b>State</b>	<b>Sl. No.</b>	<b>Village</b>	<b>District</b>
		19.	Naudhrani (Malerkotla)	Sangrur
		20.	Peer Mohammad (Jalalabad)	Fazilka
		21.	Poohli (Bhatinda)	Bathinda
		22.	QilaBharian (Sangrur)	Sangrur
		23.	Rakhra (Patiala)	Patiala
		24.	Rohila (Samrala)	Ludhiana
		25.	Tirathpur (Amritsar-I)	Amritsar

**ANNEXURE-III**

**ANNEXURE REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PART (c) & (d) OF THE LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 444 DUE FOR ANSWER ON 04.04.2022 REGARDING 'COMMISSION ON AIR QUALITY MANAGEMENT IN NCR AND ADJOINING AREAS' RAISED BY SHRI PARVESH SAHIB SINGH VERMA & SHRI FEROZE VARUN GANDHI, HON'BLE MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT**

**Criteria for designing the ambient air quality monitoring network**

<b>Population (Census 2011)</b>	<b>Minimum No. of manual station under NAMP</b>	<b>Minimum no of proposed CAAQMS</b>	<b>Total</b>
1,00,000- < 5,00,000	1-Background 2-Residential/ Commercial	1-Residential	4
5,00,000- <10,00,000	1-Background 2-Residential/ Commercial	1-Residential 1-Traffic dominant area 1- Commercial	6
10,00,000- <50,00,000	1-Background 2-Residential/ Commercial	2-Residential 1-Traffic dominant area 1- Commercial 1-Industrial area	8
≥50,00,000	1-Background in upwind direction 1-Background in down wind direction 2-Residential/ Commercial	4-Residential 3-Traffic dominant area 3- Commercial 2-Industrial area	16