

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION No. 3511
TO BE ANSWERED ON: 08.08.2022

Air and Noise Pollution

3511. SHRI ARUN SAO:

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

- (a) the steps taken/being taken by the Government to control the increasing air and noise pollution in the country;
- (b) whether the Government has any action plan in place for finding out a long term solution to control air and noise pollution in big cities of the country, particularly in Delhi-NCR and Mumbai and if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor; and
- (c) the reformative measures 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 (c)

The steps taken/being taken by the Government to control the air and noise pollution in the country is given as Annexure-I.

The National Clean Air Programme (NCAP) is being implemented in targeted 132 cities. NCAP is a long-term, time-bound, national level strategy to tackle the air pollution problem across the country in a comprehensive manner with targets to achieve 20% to 30% reduction in Particulate Matter concentrations by 2024. NCAP focuses on preparation and implementation of national level action plan, State level action plans & city level action plans of the targeted 132 cities 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.

With regard to pollution in Delhi NCR, Government has constituted 'The Commission for Air Quality Management (CAQM)' in NCR and Adjoining Areas. The Commission has been mandated to implement the action plan for control and abatement of air pollution in Delhi and NCR. The CAQM has developed a framework and action plan for effective prevention and control of air pollution in NCR Region and Adjoining Areas. Under NCAP and Fifteenth Finance Commission (FFC) grant programme, Comprehensive City Action Plan and Micro Action Plan have been prepared for Mumbai city. Rs.250.59 crores have been allocated to Mumbai under NCAP and FFC grant for implementation of city action plan.

Action plan for mitigation of noise pollution has been formulated by all SPCBs/PCCs on (i) Strengthening of Monitoring (ii) Capacity Building of Authorities and (iii) Devising methodology for addressing public complaints.

I. Steps taken by Central Government to control Air Pollution in the Country:

Various steps have been taken for monitoring and management of air quality for reducing air pollution in Delhi including NCR. These are as follows:

Vehicular Emission

- Leapfrogging from BS-IV to BS-VI fuel standards since 1st April, 2018 in NCT of Delhi and from 1st April, 2020 for the rest of the country.
- Introduction of BS VI compliant vehicles across the country since April, 2020.
- Development of Expressways and Highways to reduce fuel consumption and pollution.
- Eastern Peripheral Expressway & Western Peripheral Expressway have been operationalized to divert non destined traffic from Delhi.
- 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.
- Promotion of public transport and improvements in roads and building of more bridges to ease congestion on roads.
- Network of metro rails for public transport are enhanced and more cities are covered.
- Ban on 10-year-old diesel vehicles and 15-year-old vehicles in Delhi NCR.
- Faster Adoption and Manufacturing of Electric Vehicles (FAME) -2 schemes has been rolled out.
- Permit requirement for electric vehicles has been exempted.

Industrial Emission

- Ban on use of pet coke and furnace oil in NCR, use of pet coke in processes in cement plants, lime kilns and calcium carbide manufacturing units.
- Stringent emission norms for Coal based Thermal Power Plants (TPPs).
- Shifting of industrial units to PNG/cleaner fuel in Delhi
- Installation of online continuous emission monitoring devices in highly polluting industries.
- Shifting of brick kilns in Delhi-NCR to zigzag 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 the Implementation of NCAP

- Government has launched NCAP as a national level as a national-level strategy outlining the actions for reducing the levels of air pollution at city and regional scales in India. City specific air action plans have been rolled out for implementation in 132 NACs and MPCs
- Rs. 472.06 crore have been sanctioned to 82 non-attainment cities under NCAP to provide support for critical gap funding. The funds are disbursed based upon the performance of the cities as per the NCAP operational guidelines.
- Further, 15th Finance Commission (XV-FC) has provided a special grant of Rs 4,400 crore to 42 million plus cities/urban agglomerations which covers 50 Non-Attainment Cities for FY 2020-21.
- The performance based incentive grant of Rs.12,139 crore for FY 2020-21 to 2025-26 have been allocated for improvement in air quality of 42 million plus cities/urban agglomerations under Million-Plus Cities Challenge Fund (MPCCF). MoEF&CC is the nodal agency for monitoring ambient air quality and recommending DoE for disbursing grants to 42 Million –plus cities.
- For FY 2021-22 for 42 MPCs, Rs 2025 Cr have been released by DoE to 42 cities/UAs on the basis of their performance assessment made by MoEF&CC.
- City specific action plans are regularly monitored by committees at Central; Apex, Steering, Monitoring and implementation committee; at State; Steering, implementation committee and at City level Implementation and Monitoring Committee.
- 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).
- PRANA a portal for monitoring implementation of NCAP has been launched.

II. Steps taken by Central Government to control Noise Pollution in the Country:

- Notification of the Noise Pollution (Regulation and Control) Rules, 2000, for the regulation and control of noise producing and generating sources
- Formulation of Environment Compensation (EC) Regime
- Issuance of directions u/s 5 of EPA, 1986 to all SPCBs / PCCs for implementation of EC regime
- Action plan for mitigation of noise pollution formulated by all SPCBs/PCCs on following:
 - (i) Strengthening of Monitoring
 - (ii) Capacity Building of Authorities
 - (iii) Devising methodology for addressing public complaints
- Expansion of noise monitoring network
- Standards formulations on Public Address System

- Noise level monitoring by State PCBs in conjunction with the Police Department and take remedial action
- Training of staff by Police Department of all the State/UTs regarding the use of such devices
- Police Department of all the State/UTs to develop a robust protocol for taking appropriate action against the defaulters
- Use of Sound Limiter(s) in all sound system / public address system for effective control of Noise Pollution
- To control noise pollution, the Government launched eco-friendly green firecrackers.
