

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

**LOK SABHA**  
**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 20**  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 22.07.2024

**Deaths linked to Pollution**

20. PROF. SOUGATA RAY:  
SHRI RAMVIR SINGH BIDHURI:

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

- (a) whether the Government noticed the study report published in The Lancet Planetary Health Journal that 7.2 per cent of all daily deaths in 10 of the largest and most polluted cities in India were linked to PM2.5 levels, including Delhi, Bengaluru and Mumbai,
- (b) if so, the details thereof including the said ten cities in the country;
- (c) the position of Delhi among the most polluted capital cities of the world;
- (d) whether the people in the Delhi are dying due to pollution, if so, the average number of people dying in Delhi every year due to pollution; and
- (e) the steps taken by the Government to check such alarming situation to save the lives of common citizen of the country?

**ANSWER**

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE  
(SHRI KIRTI VARDHAN SINGH)

**(a) to (d):** There is no conclusive data available to establish a direct correlation of death exclusively with air pollution. Air pollution is one of the many factors affecting respiratory ailments and associated diseases. Health is impacted by a number of factors which include food habits, occupational habits, socio-economic status, medical history, immunity, heredity, etc., of the individuals apart from the environment.

The article published in the Lancet Planet Health Journal ‘Ambient air pollution and daily mortality in ten cities of India: a casual modelling study’ was based on study conducted using statistical models and cited its limitations that the study was unable to conduct analysis of cause-specific mortality.

Details of annual average of PM2.5 levels in 10 cities referred in the article (Ahmedabad, Bengaluru, Chennai, Delhi, Hyderabad, Kolkata, Mumbai, Pune, Shimla and Varanasi) are provided at **Annexure-I**.

World-wide ranking of cities for pollution levels may not be appropriate due to variation in monitoring methods and respective country specific national ambient air quality standards. MoEF&CC conducts Swachh Vayu Sarvekshan - ranking of 131 cities covered under National Clean Air Programme (NCAP) among three groups categorised based on population. Delhi ranked '9' in the group of 47 cities having population more than 10 lakh for taking air quality improvement measures under NCAP.

(e) Ministry of Environment Forest & Climate Change (MoEF&CC) launched National Clean Air Programme (NCAP) in January 2019, which is a long-term, time-bound national level strategy for prevention, control and abatement of air pollution. Under NCAP, it has been envisaged to achieve targets of 20 to 30% reduction in Particulate Matter (PM) concentrations by 2024 in 131 cities of 24 States/UTs with respect to base year 2017. Subsequently, the target has been revised to achieve up to 40% reduction or achieve National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS) in terms of PM concentrations by 2025-26. Cities are provided with funds to support implementation of City Action Plans for taking measures to improve air quality. All 131 cities/ULBs have prepared the City Action Plans under NCAP.

Under NCAP, an amount of Rs. 19,614.44 crores has been earmarked to 131 cities during the period FY 2019-20 till FY 2025-26 out of which 49 Million Plus Cities/Urban Agglomerations are funded under XVth Finance Commission air quality grant. So far, an amount of Rs. 11,211.13 crores was released to 131 cities to implement City Action Plans in their respective cities.

95 cities out of 131 cities have shown improvement in air quality in terms of annual PM10 concentrations in FY 2023-24 with respect to the baseline of FY 2017-18. 18 cities have met National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS) for PM10 (60 µg/m<sup>3</sup>) in FY 2023-24.

Further, steps taken by the Government for prevention and control of pollution are enclosed as **Annexure II**.

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**Annexure I**

**Details of annual average of PM2.5 levels in 10 cities (Ahmedabad, Bengaluru, Chennai, Delhi, Hyderabad, Kolkata, Mumbai, Pune, Shimla and Varanasi) during 2023**

Ambient Air Quality Data for CY-2023			
Sl. No.	States	Cities	PM2.5 (in $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ )
1	Gujarat	Ahmedabad	49
2	Karnataka	Bengaluru	33
3	Tamil Nadu	Chennai	28
4	Delhi	Delhi	105
5	Maharashtra	Greater Mumbai	47
6	Telangana	Hyderabad	38
7	West Bengal	Kolkata	49
8	Maharashtra	Pune	52
9	Himachal Pradesh	Shimla	14
10	Uttar Pradesh	Varanasi	27

Prescribed Annual Standards for PM2.5 =  $40\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$

## **Annexure II**

### **Details of steps taken by the Government for prevention and control of air pollution**

- Notification of Ambient Air Quality Standards.
- Implementation of National Clean Air Programme (NCAP) in 131 cities.
- Revision of emission standards for industrial sectors from time to time.
- Setting up of monitoring network for assessment of ambient air quality.
- Introduction of cleaner/alternate fuels like gases fuel (CNG, LPG, etc.).
- Promotion of ethanol blending.
- Launching of National Air Quality Index.
- Leapfrogging from BS-IV to BS-VI fuel standards.
- Notification of Construction and Demolition Waste Management Rules.
- Banning of burning of biomass, Streamlining the issuance of Pollution Under Control Certificate.
- Issuance of Directions under Section 18 (1) (b) of Air (Prevention and control of Pollution) Act, 1981 and under Section 5 of Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 for controlling air pollution.
- Installation of on-line continuous (24x7) monitoring devices by major industries.
- Notification of Graded Response Action Plan for Delhi and National Capital Region (NCR).
- Constitution of Commission on Air Quality Management in NCR and Adjoining Areas (CAQM) etc.
- Ban on use of pet coke and furnace oil as fuel in NCR States since October 24, 2017 and ban on use of imported pet coke in the country since July 26, 2018, with exception for use in permitted processes.
- CAQM has issued directions permitting use of PNG or biomass as industrial fuel in NCR except Delhi where only PNG is permitted as industrial fuel. CAQM has also issued directions for co-firing of 5-10% biomass with coal in thermal power plants located within 300 kms of Delhi, and, in captive power plants of industrial units located in NCR.
- Installation of Vapour Recovery System (VRS) in new and existing petrol pumps selling gasoline >100kl per month in million plus cities and those selling >300kl per month in cities with population between 1 lakh to 1 million.
- For strengthening monitoring mechanism and effective compliance through self-regulatory mechanism, CPCB directed all 17 categories of highly polluting industries to install Online Continuous Emission Monitoring System (OCEMS).
- Installation of OCEMS in red category air polluting industries in Delhi-NCR
- Shifting of all operational brick kilns to zig-zag technology in Delhi and NCR.