

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2275
TO BE ANSWERED ON 05.08.2024

National Clean Air Programme

2275. SHRI RAJESH VERMA:

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

- (a) the progress made in achieving the targets set by National Clean Air Programme for 20-30 per cent reduction in PM_{2.5} and PM₁₀ concentrations by 2024;
- (b) whether the Government is aware that the programme is not legally binding with any specified penal action; and
- (c) if so, the measures taken to establish a better enforceable mandate for multi-sectoral intervention in the National Clean Air Programme particularly in Bihar State?

ANSWER

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

(a) to (c): 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, City Action Plans (CAPs) have been put in place in 131 cities. CAPs of 131 cities are implemented through the coordinated actions of the State Governments and their agencies at the State and city levels and through mobilization of resources from convergence of various schemes of the Central Government. Several measures have been taken under NCAP to ensure effective implementation of multi-sectoral interventions.

95 out of 131 cities showing 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/m³) in FY 2023-24. 51 cities have shown more than 20% improvement in air quality. List is placed at **Annexure – I**.

The memorandum of understanding (MoU) has been signed among the Urban Local Bodies (ULB), State Governments and MoEF&CC for cities with million-plus population identified under Million Plus City Challenge Fund. Also, MoUs have been signed among Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB), State Pollution Control Boards (SPCBs)/ Pollution Control Committees (PCCs) and ULBs for remaining Non-Attainment Cities (NACs) under NCAP. These MoUs detail out the roles and responsibilities of stakeholders for the effective implementation of various multi-sectoral interventions under NCAP. Further, directions under Section 31A of The Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1981 have also been issued

to 24 States including Bihar by CPCB, for ground level implementation of approved city action plan for 131 non-attainment and million plus cities focused under the programme.

An amount of Rs. 328.11 Crore has been provided to Bihar State for the implementation of City Action Plan. State Level Committees, namely Steering and Air Quality Monitoring Committee, and District level/City level Monitoring Committee have been constituted for regular monitoring and implementation of City action plans. Further, the measures taken by State of Bihar to improve air quality are enclosed at **Annexure – II**.

ANNEXURE – I

Cities showing improvement in air quality in terms of annual PM10 concentrations in FY 2023-24 with respect to the baseline of FY 2017-18

S. No.	Improvement in PM₁₀ in 2023-24 Vs FY 2017-18 (%)	No. of Cities	Cities
1	>40	21	Varanasi, Bareilly, Firozabad, Dehradun, Dhanbad, Tuticorin, Nalagarh, Moradabad, Khurja, Trichy, Kohima, Lucknow, Kanpur, Kadapa, Sivasagar, Sunder Nagar, Agra, Greater Mumbai, Rishikesh, Parwanoo, Byrnihat
2	>30-40	14	Ahmedabad, Ghaziabad, Rajkot, Jalandhar, Raebareli, Amritsar, Kolkata, Jammu, Silchar, Vijayawada, Naya Nangal, Dimapur, Baddi, Jodhpur
3	>20-30	16	Khanna, Durgapur, Kurnool, Dera Baba Nanak, Vadodara, Allahabad, Asansol, Hyderabad, Gorakhpur, Ranchi, Bengaluru, Akola, Ananthpur, Durg Bhilainagar, Surat, Noida

Measures taken by State of Bihar to improve air quality

- Restriction of plying of 15 years old diesel driven commercial vehicles (Three-wheeler) for all NACs.
- Notification of Bihar Cleaner Fuel Policy, 2019: one time subsidy of Rs. 40,000/- for replacement of existing three-wheelers into CNG vehicles, one time conversion incentive of Rs. 20,000/- for conservation of three-wheelers into CNG and one-time subsidy of Rs. 25,000/- for replacement of three-wheelers into new electric vehicle.
- Restriction of the plying of 15 years old government vehicles in the State.
- Restriction of plying of diesel driven City buses in Patna UA.
- New 22 categories of industries are not allowed to be established in the NACs.
- State EV (Electric Vehicle) policy is notified.
- National Scrapping Policy has been adopted by the State and is implemented. One Registered Vehicle Scraping Facility (RVSF) is installed in Patna.
- Use of Pet coke as industrial fuel is banned in the state.
- All the operational brick kilns in the State are directed to adopt and switch over to cleaner technology (Zig-Zag). As on date, about 80% of the total have been converted to the Zig Zag Technology.
- To tackle the critical air quality scenario in the State “Graded Response Action Plan” have been implemented by the State Government in all the districts where CAAQMS station is operational.