

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1706
TO BE ANSWERED ON 10.03.2025

Environmental issues in West Bengal

1706. SHRI JAGANNATH SARKAR:

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

- (a) the current status of pollution levels in major cities of West Bengal and the measures being taken to mitigate air and water pollution;
- (b) the initiatives undertaken to preserve and expand forest cover and biodiversity in the State;
- (c) the progress of renewable energy projects in West Bengal and their impact on reducing the State's carbon footprint; and
- (d) the steps being taken to address the effects of climate change, such as extreme weather events and their impact on agriculture and livelihoods?

ANSWER

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

(a) to (d): Air pollution levels in terms of PM10 concentrations in the major cities of West Bengal measured during the year 2023-24 are enclosed at **Annexure I**. Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC) launched National Clean Air Programme (NCAP) in January 2019 with an aim to improve air quality in 130 cities (non-attainment cities and Million Plus Cities) including six cities namely, Kolkata, Durgapur, Asansol, Howrah, Haldia, and Barrackpore of West Bengal. An amount of Rs. ₹ 1089.78 crore has been provided to these cities for implementation of city action plans to take measures to improve air quality.

13 polluted river stretches in West Bengal were identified which has Biochemical Oxygen Demand (BOD) levels more than 3 mg/L, and details are enclosed at **Annexure II**.

The Government of India has taken several steps for conservation of biodiversity which includes survey, inventorization, taxonomic validation and threat assessment of floral and faunal resources; assessment to develop an accurate database for planning and monitoring as well as conservation and protection of forests; establishment of a protected area network of National Parks, Wildlife Sanctuaries, conservation and community reserves; designating Biosphere Reserves for conservation of representative ecosystems. Species oriented programmes, such as Project Tiger,

Project Elephant, Project Dolphin, complemented with ex-situ conservation efforts have also been undertaken.

10 Biodiversity Heritage Sites in West Bengal have been notified under Section 37 (1) of the Biological Diversity Act, 2002 and the details are placed at **Annexure III**.

West Bengal has a total installed renewable energy capacity of 1,977.22 MW. This includes 98.50 MW from small hydro power, 343.46 MW from wind power, 194.06 MW from bio power, and 1,341.20 MW from solar power.

India's climate action is guided by its updated Nationally Determined Contributions (NDC) and the long-term strategy to reach net-zero by 2070 and it cuts across various sectors of the economy. National Action Plan on Climate Change (NAPCC) of MoEFCC provides the overarching framework for all climate actions and comprises missions in specific areas of solar energy, enhanced energy efficiency, sustainable habitat, water, sustaining Himalayan ecosystems, Green India, sustainable agriculture, human health and strategic knowledge for climate change. All these All these objectives are institutionalized and implemented by their respective nodal Ministries/Departments. The MoEFCC has implemented the Central Sector Schemes namely, Climate Change Action Programme (CCAP) and the National Adaptation Fund for Climate Change (NAFCC) assisting in efforts of the Government to combat climate change.

Annexure I**Annual average concentration of PM10 in the major cities of West Bengal**

S. No.	Cities	PM10 concentrations in 2023-24 ($\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$) (Annual Avg.)
1.	Kolkata	94
2.	Durgapur	106
3.	Asansol	108
4.	Howrah	111
5.	Haldia	87
6.	Barrackpore	99

Polluted River Stretches in West Bengal during year 2022

Sr. No.	POLLUTED RIVER STRETCH/ LOCATION	POLLUTED RIVER STRETCH/ LOCATION
1.	Barakar	Along Asansol
2.	Churni	Bijoypur To Ranaghat
3.	Damodar	Dishergarh To Burdwan
4.	Dwarakeshwar	Along Bankura Town
5.	Dwarka	Along Tarapith
6.	Ganga	Behrampur To Haldia
7.	Jalangi	Along Krishna Nagar
8.	Kansi	Along Midnapore
9.	Mahananda	Along Siliguri
10.	Matha Bhanga	Along Gobindapur
11.	Rupnarayan	Kolaghat To Geonkhali
12.	Teesta	Along Sevoke
13.	Vindyadhari	Haroa To Malancha

Annexure – III

Biodiversity Heritage Sites (BHS) in West Bengal

Sl. No.	Name of Biodiversity Heritage Site (BHS)	Location
1.	Tonglu BHS	Darjeeling
2.	Dhotrey BHS	Darjeeling
3.	Chilkgarh Kanak Durga	Jhargram
4.	Baneswar Shiva Dighi	Cooch Behar-II
5.	Amkhoi wood fossil park	Birbhum
6.	Char Balidanga	Nadia
7.	Namthing Pokhari	Darjeeling
8.	State Horticulture Research and Development Station	Nadia
9.	Birampur- Baguran Jalpai	Purba Medinipur
10.	Haldir Char Island	Purba Medinipur
