

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 3743
TO BE ANSWERED ON 24.03.2025

Pollution in Rishikesh

3743. SHRI TRIVENDRA SINGH RAWAT:

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

- (a) whether the Government is running any scheme to make Rishikesh an air pollution free pilgrimage site;
- (b) if so, the steps been taken by the Government under this Scheme and the status of their implementation;
- (c) whether the Government has introduced electric vehicles, improved public transport or taken any other measures to reduce vehicular pollution in Rishikesh, if so, the details thereof; and
- (d) whether the Government has set up any special mechanism for monitoring air quality in the said city and the results of the same?

ANSWER

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

(a) to (d):

The National Clean Air Programme (NCAP) was launched by the Ministry of Environment, Forest, and Climate Change (MoEFCC) in January 2019 with the goal of improving air quality in 130 non-attainment cities and Million Plus Cities including Rishikesh in Uttarakhand. The NCAP envisages reduction by 20-30% in PM10 concentrations by 2024-25 over baseline in the year 2017-18. Target has been revised to achieve reduction in PM10 level up to 40% over baseline in the year 2019-20 or achievement of national ambient air quality standards (60 microgram/cubic meter) by 2025-26.

An amount of Rs 9.78 crore has been provided to Rishikesh from F.Y. 2019-20 till date as performance linked grant for the implementation of city action plan for taking air quality improvement measures.

NCAP is implemented and monitored by Committees at National (Apex, Steering, Monitoring and Implementation); State (Steering and Monitoring); and City (Implementation) level. These Committees coordinate, monitor, evaluate progress and provide guidance for implementation of respective action plans. With respect to Rishikesh city, District Level Implementation and Monitoring Committee has been constituted under the chairmanship of District Magistrate, Rishikesh on 06.09.2019 to periodically monitor the progress of implementation of city action plan.

Ministry of Heavy Industries, Government of India promotes the electric vehicles through Electric Mobility Promotion Scheme 2024 (EMPS 2024). At present, there are total of 3772 e-vehicles available in Rishikesh, which include 2,508 public transport e-vehicles and 1,264 non-commercial e-vehicles.

The ambient air quality of Rishikesh city is being monitored by 04 stations (03 manual & 01 Real-time) and detailed as below –

| Real-Time | Manual |
|--------------------------|-----------------------|
| Shivaji Nagar, Rishikesh | Nagar Palika Parishad |
| | SPS Hospital |
| | Natraj Hotel |

The ambient air quality data of Rishikesh city during 2023 is tabulated below and depicts that SO₂, NO₂ and PM_{2.5} were observed within NAAQS whereas PM₁₀ exceeded NAAQS.

| City | SO₂ | NO₂ | PM₁₀ | PM_{2.5} |
|-------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|------------------------|-------------------------|
| Rishikesh | 8 | 11 | 77 | 37 |

Note: All the above values are in µg/m³
