GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 207
TO BE ANSWERED ON 21.07.2025

Increasing Air Pollution in the Country

207. SHRI ANIL YESHWANT DESAI:
SHRI BABU SINGH KUSHWAHA:

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

(a) the data on pollution level in Delhi, Mumbai, Chennai and Kolkata and its level of pollution compared to other cities in the world;
(b) whether the condition of air pollution has reached at dangerous levels in various cities of the country including Delhi, Mumbai, Chennai and Kolkata and if so, the city-wise details thereof and the reasons therefor;
(c) whether the number of diseases caused by air pollution has increased in the country during the last few years and if so, the total number of people died as a result thereof, State/UT- wise;
(d) the amount allocated and utilised during the last five years to reduce the air pollution in the country, State/UT-wise;
(e) the measures taken/being taken by the Government to reduce pollution across the country particularly in Delhi, Mumbai, Chennai and Kolkata;
(f) whether the Government is working on any action plan to control air pollution and bring the Air Quality Index (AQI) below 50 within the next five years in the country; and
(g) if so, the details thereof and if not, whether the Government will consider any such action plan?

ANSWER

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

(a) and (b)

National Clean Air Programme (NCAP) was launched by the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC) in January 2019 with an aim to improve air quality in 130 cities of the country including Delhi, Mumbai, Chennai and Kolkata through implementation of National, State and City level clean air action plans.

City Specific Clean Air Action Plans have been prepared by all cities to implement air quality improvement measures in respective cities. These plans target air pollution sources like soil & road dust, vehicular emissions, waste burning, Construction & Demolition activities, and industrial pollution.

As per recent data, there has been notable improvement in PM_{10} levels in major Indian cities. Mumbai has shown improvement in PM_{10} levels with a 44% reduction in 2024-25 compared to FY 2017-18, followed by Kolkata (37%), Delhi (15%), and Chennai (12%). PM10 data in respect of 2017-18 and 2024-25 and per cent improvement in PM10 concentrations of Mumbai, Kolkata, Delhi and Chennai in FY 2024-25 w.r.t. FY 2017-18 is enclosed at **Annexure I.** These improvements reflect the positive impact of various air quality improvement measures implemented under NCAP.

Pollution levels across countries are not directly comparable due to differences in geographical settings, weather conditions, and national circumstances. Additionally, each country follows its own National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS), which vary and are not directly comparable.

The focused actions by 130 cities under NCAP have shown positive results with 103 cities showing reduction in PM10 concentration in 2024-25 with respect to 2017-18, 64 cities have shown reduction in PM10 levels by more than 20% with respect to base year 2017-18 and 25 of these cities have achieved a reduction of more than 40%. A total of 22 Cities have met NAAQS and have PM10 Concentrations less than 60 $\mu g/m^3$. Details of air quality improvement in cities covered under NCAP is placed at **Annexure II.**

(c)
There are several studies conducted by different organizations on the health impact of air pollution, which is one of the many factors affecting respiratory ailments and associated diseases. However, there is no conclusive data available to establish a direct correlation of deaths due to air pollution. Health is affected by cumulative impact of a number of factors apart from the environment, which include food habits, occupational habits, socio-economic status, medical history, immunity, heredity, etc., of the individuals.

(d)
Out of 130 cities under NCAP, 48 Million Plus Cities/ Urban Agglomerations are funded under XVth Finance Commission Million Plus City Challenge Fund as an air quality performance grant, and remaining 82 cities are funded under Control of Pollution Scheme of MoEFCC. Performance linked grant of Rs. 13,036.52 crore has been provided to 130 cities for critical gap funding to implement air quality improvement measures. Details of State-wise fund released and utilised under NCAP & XVFC from the FY 2019-20 to 2025-26 is placed at **Annexure III.**

(e)
Key measures taken by the Central Government for air quality management including control of vehicular and industrial pollution are placed at **Annexure IV**. Specific measures taken in Delhi in respect of air quality improvement are placed at **Annexure V.**

(f) and (g)
Government of India has already launched the National Clean Air Programme (NCAP) in 2019 as a long-term, time-bound, national-level strategy to tackle air pollution across the country with an objective to achieve a reduction in PM10 concentrations.

Funds under NCAP are being provided to 48 Million Plus Cities based on the reduction in annual average PM10 concentrations and increase in the number of good air quality days (Air Quality Index less than 200).

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Annexure I

Improvement in PM10 concentrations of Mumbai, Kolkata, Delhi and Chennai in FY 2024-25 w.r.t. FY 2017-18

Sl. No.	Cities	2017-2018	2024-25	% improvement in 2024-25 w.r.t. FY 2017-18
		Average concentration (F.Y.) of PM_{10} ($\mu g/m^3$)	Average concentration (F.Y.) of PM_{10} ($\mu g/m^3$)	
1	Mumbai	161	90	44
2	Kolkata	147	92	37
3	Delhi	241	203	15
4	Chennai	66	58	12

Annexure II

Improvement in PM10 concentrations of 130 Cities under NCAP in FY 2024-25 w.r.t. FY 2017-18

Sl. No.	Cities	2017-2018	2024-25	% improvement in 2024-25 w.r.t. FY 2017-18
		Average concentration (F.Y.) of PM_{10} ($\mu g/m^3$)	Average concentration (F.Y.) of PM_{10} ($\mu g/m^3$)	
1	Bareily	207	48	76.8
2	Varanasi	230	59	74.3
3	Firozabad	247	100	59.5
4	Dehradun	250	107	57.2
5	Moradabad	222	96	56.8
6	Kanpur	227	102	55.1
7	Tuticorin	123	56	54.5
8	Nalagarh	146	68	53.4
9	Agra	202	103	49.0
10	Dhanbad	315	166	47.3
11	Ghaziabad	285	154	46.0
12	Raebareli	145	79	45.5
13	Surat	130	71	45.4
14	Jhansi	109	60	45.0
15	Jalandhar	178	99	44.4
16	Greater Mumbai	161	90	44.1
17	Kohima	127	71	44.1
18	Byrnihat	175	98	44.0
19	Lucknow	253	142	43.9
20	Badlapur	160	90	43.8
21	Srinagar	132*	76	42.4
22	Allahabad	169	99	41.4
23	Ulhasnagar	153	90	41.2
24	Amritsar	189	112	40.7
25	Rajkot	150	89	40.7
26	Sunder Nagar	78	47	39.7
27	Baddi	174	108	37.9
28	Kolkata	147	92	37.4
29	Ahmedabad	164	103	37.2
30	Faridabad	229*	147	35.8
31	Jodhpur	189	122	35.4
32	Trichy	88	57	35.2

Sl. No.	Cities	2017-2018	2024-25	% improvement in 2024-25 w.r.t. FY 2017-18
		Average concentration (F.Y.) of PM_{10} ($\mu g/m^3$)	Average concentration (F.Y.) of PM_{10} ($\mu g/m^3$)	
33	Noida	229	149	34.9
34	Rishikesh	129	84	34.9
35	Thane	138	90	34.8
36	Howrah	139	92	33.8
37	Akola	111	74	33.3
38	Naya Nangal	87	58	33.3
39	Vadodara	133	90	32.3
40	Alwar	152	105	30.9
41	Rajamuhndary	85	59	30.6
42	Gorakhpur	150	105	30.0
43	Vijayawada	91	64	29.7
44	Khanna	142	101	28.9
45	Kala Amb	118	84	28.8
46	Jabalpur	101	73	27.7
47	Gajraula	204	148	27.5
48	Parwanoo	66	48	27.3
49	Dera Baba Nanak	79	58	26.6
50	Hyderabad	110	81	26.4
51	Bengaluru	92	68	26.1
52	Amravati	102	76	25.5
53	Kadapa	75	56	25.3
54	Sivasagar	73	55	24.7
55	Ranchi	141	107	24.1
56	Kurnool	79	60	24.1
57	Ludhiana	168	129	23.2
58	Ananthpur	78	60	23.1
59	Devanagere	74	57	23.0
60	Hubli-Dharwad	79	61	22.8
61	Dimapur	142	112	21.1
62	Jammu	157	124	21.0
63	Nagaon	82	65	20.7
64	Nellore	64	51	20.3
65	Durg Bhilainagar	86	69	19.8
66	Khurja	195	159	18.5
67	Latur	82	67	18.3
68	Jaipur	172	142	17.4

Sl. No.	Cities	2017-2018	2024-25	% improvement in 2024-25 w.r.t. FY 2017-18
		Average concentration (F.Y.) of PM_{10} ($\mu g/m^3$)	Average concentration (F.Y.) of PM_{10} ($\mu g/m^3$)	
69	Kota	139	115	17.3
70	Meerut	159	133	16.4
71	Mandi Gobindgarh	148	124	16.2
72	Delhi	241	203	15.8
73	Madurai	72	61	15.3
74	Sangli	87	74	14.9
75	Chittur	70	60	14.3
76	Patiala	106	91	14.2
77	Ujjain	93	80	14.0
78	Chennai	66	58	12.1
79	Haldia	92	81	12.0
80	Anpara	175	155	11.4
81	Eluru	72	64	11.1
82	Muzaffarpur	147	131	10.9
83	Asansol	147	131	10.9
84	Ongole	65	58	10.8
85	Vasai virar	99	90	9.1
86	Kolhapur	89	81	9.0
87	Pune	102	93	8.8
88	Nagpur	100	92	8.0
89	Nashik	82	76	7.3
90	Gwalior	126	117	7.1
91	Jalna	99	93	6.1
92	Kashipur	99	93	6.1
93	Chandrapur	118	111	5.9
94	Gulburga / Kalaburgi	55	52	5.5
95	Udaipur	127	121	4.7
96	Bhopal	112	107	4.5
97	Cuttack	93	89	4.3
98	Paonta Sahib	84	81	3.6
99	Guntur	66	64	3.0
100	Guwahati	103	100	2.9
101	Patna	172	167	2.9
102	Nalbari	87	85	2.3
103	Durgapur	150	149	0.7

Sl. No.	Cities	2017-2018	2024-25	% improvement in 2024-25 w.r.t. FY 2017-18
		Average concentration (F.Y.) of PM_{10} ($\mu g/m^3$)	Average concentration (F.Y.) of PM_{10} ($\mu g/m^3$)	
104	Chandigarh	114	114	0.0
105	Kalinga Nagar	109	109	0.0
106	Bhubneshwar	85	86	-1.2
107	Sangareddy	85	86	-1.2
108	Indore	82	83	-1.2
109	Damtal	55	56	-1.8
110	Navi Mumbai	88	90	-2.3
111	Solapur	81	83	-2.5
112	Vizhianagaram	72	74	-2.8
113	Dewas	83	86	-3.6
114	Talcher	113	119	-5.3
115	Barrackpore	86	92	-7.0
116	Raipur	70	75	-7.1
117	Jamshedpur	135	145	-7.4
118	Sagar	73	79	-8.2
119	Gaya	79	87	-10.1
120	Silchar	49	54	-10.2
121	Balasore	84	93	-10.7
122	Dera Bassi	88	98	-11.4
123	Rourkela	99	111	-12.1
124	Srikakulam	69	79	-14.5
125	Angul	97	116	-19.6
126	Korba	57	69	-21.1
127	Nalgonda	59	78	-32.2
128	Jalgaon	70	93	-32.9
129	Visakhapatnam	76	101	-32.9
130	Aurangabad	75	100	-33.3

* PM_{10} levels in the FY 2017-18 for Faridabad and Srinagar are not available. PM_{10} levels of FY 2020-21 for Faridabad and PM_{10} levels of FY 2018-19 for Srinagar have been considered as a baseline.

Annexure-III

State Wise Fund Sanctioned & Utilization details under NCAP & XVFC from the FY 2019-20 to 2025-26 (till date)

(Amount in Rs. crore)

S.No.	State	Released	Utilization
1	Andhra Pradesh	384.17	194.06
2	Assam	89.70	56.80
3	Bihar	369.34	285.72
4	Chandigarh	38.09	31.17
5	Chhattisgarh	300.42	191.30
6	Delhi	62.03	13.94
7	Gujarat	1282.98	957.51
8	Haryana	107.14	43.73
9	Himachal Pradesh	20.18	15.32
10	Jammu & Kashmir	151.97	61.43
11	Jharkhand	279.44	177.08
12	Karnataka	611.72	356.40
13	Madhya Pradesh	820.04	639.69
14	Maharashtra	1774.62	1417.18
15	Meghalaya	10.05	5.72
16	Nagaland	25.56	18.33
17	Odisha	91.07	72.50
18	Punjab	325.77	215.46
19	Rajasthan	680.38	572.45
20	Tamilnadu	652.24	537.35
21	Telangana	737.80	443.92
22	Uttar Pradesh	2822.98	1935.66
23	Uttrakhand	85.615	53.18
24	West Bengal	1313.21	906.31
	Total	**13036.52**	**9202.21**

Annexure IV

Measures taken by the Central Government for air quality management:

i. Emission standards for more than 80 industries have been notified under Environment (Protection) Rules, 1986
ii. Leapfrogging to Bharat Stage-VI (BS-VI) emissions norms from 1st April 2020
iii. Vehicle Scrapping Policy, Rules for Registered Vehicle Scrapping Facilities and Automated Testing Stations by MoRTH
iv. Waste management rules for solid waste, plastic waste, hazardous waste, e-waste, battery waste, biomedical waste, 100% ash utilisation by Thermal Power Plants
v. Mandate for utilisation of minimum 5% of crop residue along with coal (pellets/brickettes) in thermal power plants in NCR and adjoining areas
vi. Categorization of industrial areas as Critically and Severely Polluted Areas (CPAs/SPAs) based on Comprehensive Environmental Pollution Index (CEPI).
vii. To address vehicular emissions, the Government has taken several proactive measures such as introduction of BS-VI fuel norms for vehicles from 1st April 2018 in NCT of Delhi and from 1st April 2020 for the rest of the country, introduction of vehicle scrapping policy and promotion of Electric Vehicles and charging infrastructure through various Central Schemes.
viii. Further, under PM E-bus Sewa scheme of MoHUA, an allocation of ₹13,778 crore out of the total ₹57,613 crore scheme outlay has been provided for enhancing urban transport through deployment of electric buses and charging stations.
ix. Further, Ministry of Road, Transport & Highways (MoRTH) has directed the State Govt./UT administrations to establish Registered Vehicle Scrapping Facilities (RVSF) and Automated Testing Stations (ATS).
x. Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change notified the Environment Protection (End-of-Life Vehicles) Rules, 2025 on 06.01.2025 for environmentally sound management of end-of-life vehicles.
xi. Under Swachh Bharat Mission-Urban 2.0 (SBM 2.0) Scheme of the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA), solid waste processing facilities in 130 cities have been undertaken.
xii. To address open burning of waste, Public Grievance Redressal System (PGRS) App has been developed and floated in all 130 Cities for online registration of complaints by the citizens and quick redressal by local bodies. Further, local bodies under NCAP have been directed to clear garbage vulnerable points, which are prone to open burning.
xiii. Industrial pollution is monitored by concerned SPCBs/PCCs through Consent Mechanism under the Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1981 and Environmental Clearance issued under EIA Notification, 2006, as applicable, by MoEFCC and its regional offices. 17 categories of highly polluting industries have been directed to install Online Emission and Effluent Monitoring System (OCEMS).

Annexure V

Specific measures taken in Delhi in respect of air quality improvement:

i. Commission for Air Quality Management (CAQM) in National Capital Region (NCR) and Adjoining Areas has been constituted for coordination, research, identification and resolution of problems surrounding the air quality index in NCR in co-ordination with the Govt. of National Capital Territory of Delhi and the States of Punjab, Haryana, Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh.

ii. Graded Response Action Plan (GRAP) has been formulated for Delhi NCR to tackle the issue of sudden rise in air pollution and necessary directions were issued by CAQM for its implementation. Actions listed for different Air Quality Index (AQI) levels under GRAP are invoked from time to time.

iii. Directions prescribing measures for control of pollution from various sources such as implementation of RECD system/ dual fuel kits in DG sets, use of cleaner fuels in industries, shift to EV/ CNG/ BS VI diesel fuel in transport sector, implementation of dust control measures at C&D sites etc., have been issued by CAQM.

iv. Directions issued by CAQM to Government of NCT of Delhi and State Governments of Haryana, Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh for migration of public transport services, especially buses in NCR to cleaner modes. All state govt. bus services between Delhi and any city/town in the states of Haryana, Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh to be operated only through EV /CNG/BS-VI diesel w.e.f. 01.11.2023.

v. CAQM has 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.

vi. Online Continuous Emission Monitoring System (OCEMS) in red category air polluting industries in Delhi-NCR have been installed.

vii. Industrial units in Delhi have shifted to PNG/cleaner fuels and, operational units in NCR have shifted to PNG/Biomass.

viii. Directions have been issued for conversion of brick kilns to zig-zag technology in Delhi and NCR.

ix. Ban on use of pet coke and furnace oil as fuel in NCR States was issued since October 24, 2017.

x. An approved fuel list is in force in Delhi-NCR w.e.f. 01.01.2023. Industries operating on only PNG or biomass are permitted in NCR, except for specific requirement of other fuels by specific industries owing to technical, technological and process requirements.

xi. Stringent PM emission norms for biomass based boilers have been prescribed for compliance in NCR.

xii. Directions issued to DPCC and SPCBs in NCR to enforce installation of anti-smog guns and other dust control measures at C&D sites.

xiii. Directions issued for setting up of a "Dust Control and Management Cell" by road owning/ maintaining/ construction agencies for monitoring and effective implementation of dust control measures in the NCR.

xiv. Online monitoring mechanism (through web portal) has been introduced for monitoring compliance of dust mitigation measures for construction sites.

xv. 40 teams have been deputed by CPCB since December 2021, to assist CAQM, for conducting incognito inspections of air polluting industries, C&D sites, DG sets in Delhi-NCR to check implementation status of pollution control measures and compliance of other provisions of the Air (P&CP) Act, 1981.

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