

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 4108
TO BE ANSWERED ON 18.08.2025

Coordination between Centre and State for Air Pollution

4108. KUMARI SELJA:

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

- (a) the nature of coordination between the Central Government and State Governments in tackling air pollution;
- (b) whether any joint initiatives or mechanisms have been implemented in this regard, if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) whether public awareness campaigns are being conducted to mitigate the impact of air pollution and promote responsible environment behaviour and if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

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

(a) and (b): MoEFCC has enacted the Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1981, for preservation of the quality of air and the control of air pollution. Under the Act, Central Pollution Control Board, State Governments and the State Pollution Control Boards have been inter-alia empowered to take steps for prevention, control, or abatement of air pollution.

The State Governments have been empowered under the Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1981, to declare air pollution control areas, alter any air pollution control area, declare a new air pollution control area, approve fuels and appliances and prohibit burning of material likely to cause air pollution.

Further, State Pollution Control Boards have been provided the following mandate under the Act to abate air pollution:

- To advise the State Government on any matter concerning the prevention, control or abatement of air pollution
- To lay down, in consultation with the Central Board and having regard to the standards for the quality of air laid down by the Central Board, standards for emission of air pollutants

into the atmosphere from industrial plants and automobiles or for the discharge of any air pollutant into the atmosphere from any other source whatsoever not being a ship or an aircraft

- To inspect air pollution control areas
- To collaborate with the Central Board in organising the training of persons engaged or to be engaged in programmes relating to prevention, control or abatement of air pollution and to organise mass-education programme relating thereto

Central Board has been mandated to co-ordinate the activities of the State and resolve disputes among them and provide technical assistance and guidance to the State Boards, carry out and sponsor investigations and research relating to problems of air pollution and prevention, control or abatement of air pollution.

The Central Government shall allocate seventy-five per cent of the amount collected as penalties under the Environmental Protection Fund to the State Governments or Union territory administrations for the promotion of awareness, education and research for the protection of environment, and for achieving the objects and purposes of the Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1981.

Further, Central Government issues directions to CPCB for implementing the provisions of the Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1981 for abatement of air pollution. CPCB in turn issues directions to concerned SPCBs for the implementation of the provisions of the Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1981.

Further, MoEFCC notified “Standards for Emission or Discharge of Environmental Pollutants from various Industries” under Schedule-I of the Environment Protection Rules, 1986. The general standards as notified under Schedule-VI of the Environment Protection Rules, 1986 are applicable where specific standards are not available for the industrial sectors. CPCB has directed all 17 categories of high pollution potential industries and common waste treatment facilities to install Online Continuous Effluent/ Emission Monitoring Systems (OCEMS) for effective monitoring of compliance of emission and discharge standards. The concerned SPCB/PCC ensures the implementation of the said standards.

Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC) has notified National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS) for 12 air pollutants under the Environment (Protection) Seventh Amendment Rules, 2009 notified by G.S.R. 826 (E) dated 16.11.2009. CPCB in collaboration with concerned SPCB/PCC monitor the air quality in more than 543 cities across the country.

National Clean Air Programme (NCAP) launched by Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEF&CC) in January 2019 aims to improve air quality in 130 non-attainment and Million-Plus Cities in 24 States/UTs. It is a multi-sectoral initiative involving the coordinated efforts of the Central and State Governments, Urban Local Bodies (ULBs), and other stakeholders. It emphasizes source-specific mitigation measures through city, state, and national-level clean air action plans.

Activities under NCAP are 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.

The memorandum of understanding (MoU) has been signed among the Urban Local Bodies (ULB), State Governments and MoEF&CC for all 48 Million-Plus cities/Urban Agglomerations. Also, MoUs have been signed among Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB), State Pollution Control Boards (SPCBs)/ Pollution Control Committees (PCCs) and ULBs for remaining 82 Non-Attainment Cities (NACs) identified under NCAP. These MoUs detail out the roles and responsibilities of stakeholders for the effective implementation of various multi-sectoral interventions under NCAP.

(c): CPCB, SPCBs/PCCs and 130 cities under NCAP have been mandated to undertake awareness programmes including relevant actions under Mission LiFE to create awareness generation regarding air quality management. These agencies have also been encouraged to organize awareness programmes through 'MY Bharat' portal for involving youth and students from schools and colleges. Under National Clean Air Programme (NCAP), Municipal Corporations and State Pollution Control Boards/State Environment Departments have conducted more than 34,000 awareness programmes on air quality management.
