

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

LOK SABHA
STARRED QUESTION NO. 13
TO BE ANSWERED ON 01.12.2025

Impact of Air Pollution

*13. DR. KIRSAN NAMDEO:

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

- (a) whether the Government is aware of the alarming levels of air pollution in UT of Delhi and its adverse impact on public health, particularly during the winter months;
- (b) whether the Delhi Government has adequately utilized funds and resources provided by the Central Government for pollution control measures and if so, the details thereof;
- (c) if not, the reasons for underutilization of fund and whether any accountability measures have been initiated and if so, the details thereof; and
- (d) whether lack of effective and sustainable policies by the said Government has contributed to the worsening air quality, if so, the corrective measures taken by the Central Government in this regard?

ANSWER

MINISTER FOR ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE
(SHRI BHUPENDER YADAV)

(a) to (d) : A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

**STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARAS (a) to (d) OF THE LOK SABHA
STARRED QUESTION NO. 13 DUE FOR REPLY ON 01.12.2025 REGARDING
IMPACT OF AIR POLLUTION BY DR. KIRSAN NAMDEO, HON'BLE MEMBER OF
PARLIAMENT.**

(a) to (d): To address air pollution in Delhi-NCR, Government has established the Commission for Air Quality Management (CAQM) under the Commission for Air Quality Management in NCR and Adjoining Areas Act, 2021 for better coordination, research, identification and resolution of problems of air pollution in Delhi- NCR and adjoining areas. Commission has been provided powers under the Act to take measures and issue directions to the various agencies in the National Capital Region for protecting and improving air quality.

The Commission has addressed the issue of air pollution in Delhi-NCR in a collective, collaborative and participative mode involving all the major stakeholders. The Commission has so far issued 95 Statutory Directions to specifically guide and direct various actions towards abatement of air pollution in the region. A monitoring mechanism to oversee the implementation of these directions has been put in place.

Commission has come up with much stringent emission norms for various polluting activities in NCR, as compared to the national standards. These directions are rigorously monitored for implementation through periodic progress reviews, issuing subsequent orders and directions from time to time.

Commission has prepared Graded Response Action Plan (GRAP) which provides set of emergency response actions, depending on severity of air pollution levels, to be implemented by identified agencies for minimizing air pollution, a situation that generally persists in the Delhi-NCR during the peak winter months.

Based on the dynamic model and weather forecast provided by IMD (Indian Meteorological Department) / IITM (Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology) on a day-to-day basis, actions under Stages I, II, III and IV of the GRAP are invoked in advance in anticipation of the AQI of Delhi reaching to the projected levels of that stage based on the overall meteorological conditions and anthropogenic activities.

The Commission has recently conducted comprehensive review of the contours of the existing GRAP and made the actions more stringent under the various stages of the GRAP. Details of recent amendments in GRAP are enclosed at **Annexure I**.

The Government has regularly reviewed and monitored the actions taken to address air pollution including stubble burning related issues in Delhi-NCR and adjoining areas. Some of the recent key meetings are as below:

- i. Regular review meetings have been held on 08.08.2025, 16.09.2025, 10.10.2025 and 11.11.2025 under the chairmanship of the Hon'ble Minister for Environment, Forest and Climate Change, on the issues relating to air pollution control in Delhi-NCR, to deliberate upon the undertaking of air pollution abatement measures and strategies for further strengthening air quality management across the region;
- ii. Minister level Inter-Ministerial meeting was held on 07.10.2025 under the Co-chairmanship of Hon'ble Minister for Environment, Forest and Climate Change and Hon'ble Minister for Agriculture & Farmers' Welfare on the issues of management of Crop Residue Burning.

In the review meeting, the following was directed. Govt. of NCT Delhi to utilise the funds in

expeditious manner to implement air pollution mitigation measures along with other important measures such as awarding work for evacuation of construction dust and drainage silt, organising 'Sewa Saptah' at all ward of Municipal Corporation of GNCTD and NCR States, implementation of FASTag and ANPR cameras at all tolls points for restriction of the entry of banned commercial vehicles, prepare integrated waste collection and management plan, identification and repair of stretches with potholes, end-to-end pavement of roads, feeder centres for Construction and Demolition (C&D) waste processing facility, steps to improve the offtake of recycled products from C&D waste, monitoring of large construction sites, mechanised road sweeping for roads with 20-60 ft as well as roads <20 ft wide, decongestion of 62 identified traffic congestion points in Delhi, increasing the green cover along Yamuna flood plains, time bound action plan for plantation of 1 crore trees under 'Ek Ped Maa ke Naam', installation of Online Continuous Emission Monitoring Systems (OCEMS) and Air Pollution Control Devices (APCD) in all air polluting industries in a time bound manner.

NCT of Delhi has been provided a critical gap funding under National Clean Air Program (NCAP) to take measures to improve air quality. To implement air pollution mitigation measures, NCAP also leverages the mobilisation of resources through convergence of Central Government schemes and programmes, such as, AMRUT 1.0 & 2.0, Swachh Bharat Mission 1.0 & 2.0, FAME II and Grand Challenge Scheme.

Government of NCT Delhi has reported that they have started implementation of various activities to utilise the funds for procurement of 14 Mechanical Road Sweeping (MRS), end- to-end paving and pothole-free maintenance of roads and greening of traffic corridors, open areas, gardens, community places, schools, and housing societies covering 2.6 ha which are at various stages. Further, New Delhi Municipal Council (NDMC) has informed that they have initiated procurement of four anti-smog guns on BS-VI CNG and seven modified anti-smog water guns for high-rise buildings and road improvement works.

A centralised air quality portal and mobile app-SAMEER are functional for tracking and dissemination of near real time air quality data and hourly Air Quality Index to the public. CPCB issues a daily bulletin at 04:00 PM comprising AQI of various cities in the country including Delhi-NCR. SAMEER app also serves as a grievance redressal mechanism which allows the citizens to report pollution related complaints for quick resolution by the concerned agencies.

PRANA- 'Portal for Regulation of Air Pollution in Non-Attainment Cities' has been operationalised for managing and monitoring the progress of implementation of activities implemented by 130 targeted cities under NCAP.

With coordinated efforts, number of good days (AQI<200) in Delhi have increased to 200 days in 2025 from 110 days in 2016. While there is an overall improvement in the AQI this year, very poor days (AQI: 301-400) and severe days (AQI more than 401) have reduced from 71 days in 2024 to 50 days in 2025. Delhi has observed lowest average AQI in the past 8 years i.e., from 2018 to 2025 (barring 2020 – COVID lockdown).

Details of amendments made to Graded Response Plan (GRAP) by CAQM on 21.11.2025

The Commission has issued the following amendments in the schedule of GRAP:

A. The following measures currently under **GRAP Stage II to be taken under **GRAP Stage I**:**

- (1). Ensure uninterrupted power supply to discourage use of alternate power Generating sets/ equipment (DG sets etc.)
- (2). Synchronize traffic movements and deploy adequate personnel at intersections / traffic congestion points for smooth flow of traffic.
- (3). Alert in newspapers / TV / radio to advise people about air pollution levels and Do's and Don'ts for minimizing polluting activities
- (4). Augment public transport services through CNG/ electric buses and metro services by inducting additional fleet and increasing the frequency of service. Introduce differential rates to encourage off – peak travel.

B. The following measures currently under **GRAP Stage III to be taken under **GRAP Stage II**:**

- (1). (i) GNCTD and NCR State Governments to stagger timings for public offices and municipal bodies in the National Capital Territory of Delhi and the districts of Gurugram, Faridabad, Ghaziabad and Gautam Budh Nagar.
- (ii) State Governments may take a decision to stagger timings for public offices and municipal bodies in other areas of NCR.
- (2). Central Government may take a decision on staggering of timings of Central Government offices in Delhi – NCR.

C. The following measures currently under GRAP Stage IV to be taken under GRAP Stage III:

- (1). NCR State Governments / GNCTD to take a decision on allowing public, municipal and private offices to work on 50% strength and the rest to work from home.
- (2). Central Government may take appropriate decision on permitting work from home for employees in central government offices.
