

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2339
TO BE ANSWERED ON 15.12.2025

National Ambient Air Quality Standards Targets

2339. SHRI RAHUL GANDHI:
SHRI BHAJAN LAL JATAV:

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

- (a) the percentage of the current Air Quality Index (AQI) improvement plan actually implemented in view of the fact that the country's AQI has been continuously rising over the last three years;
- (b) the details of the National Ambient Air Quality Standards targets for 2025-26, the details of cities where PM_{2.5} and PM₁₀ levels have been met along with the cities where standards have not been met;
- (c) the details of the funds allocated, released and utilised under National Clean Air Programme (NCAP) since 2019, State-wise;
- (d) whether the Government is aware that nearly two-thirds of cities monitored by the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) have moderate or worse rating of Air Quality Index (AQI);
- (e) whether the Government is aware of reports revealing that independent monitors indicate more severe AQI levels than Government-operated monitors.
- (f) the reasons for the number AQI monitoring stations being significantly lower as compared to international standards; and
- (g) the time by which the real-time data collection for identifying pollution sources is likely to become fully automated?

ANSWER

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

(a) to (g): Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change launched the National Clean Air Programme (NCAP) in 2019 and it is a long-term, time-bound, national-level strategy to address air pollution in 130 non-attainment and million plus cities/urban agglomeration in 24 States/UTs. City Specific Clean Air Action Plans have been prepared by all 130 cities under NCAP 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.

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 µg/m³.

Further, National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS) have been notified for 12 pollutants in 2009 under the Environmental Protection Rules, 1986 to protect public health and environment from air pollution.

In 2022, out of 134 cities for which AQI was disseminated, 124 cities showed more good days (AQI≤200). Similarly, in 2023, out of 191 such cities, 189 cities showed more good days (AQI≤200). In 2024, out of 231 cities, 228 cities showed more good days (AQI≤200).

State- wise details of funds allocated, released and utilised under NCAP are enclosed at **Annexure I**. Further, the programme emphasises the mobilisation of resources through convergence of various schemes of Central & State Governments such as Swachh Bharat Mission (Urban), AMRUT, Smart City Mission, PM e-Bus Sewa, PM E-DRIVE, SATAT, and Nagar Van Yojana, as well as resources of State Govts. / UT administrations, Municipal Corporations and other developmental authorities.

The AQI in the country is generated through Continuous Ambient Air Quality Monitoring Stations (CAAQMS) which are equipped with state of art reference-grade systems, delivering continuous and near real-time data. The real-time measurements from these systems are also indispensable being accurate and scientifically robust air-quality data for Air Quality Index (AQI) reporting. These monitoring systems provide accurate, traceable, and reliable data, which is essential for compliance assessment under the National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS), for scientifically credible trend analysis and for regulatory purposes.

At present, air quality data generation using any technology other than the specified in National Ambient Air Quality Standard (NAAQS), 2009 is not used for regulatory purpose as its accuracy, linearity, reliability, and long-term performance are not yet fully established. Therefore, the data from these sensors may have a degree of error/uncertainty.

Concerned State Pollution Control Boards/Pollution Control Committees install Monitoring Stations to collect ambient air quality, in line with the criteria issued by the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB). At present, ambient air quality monitoring is carried out by Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) and State Pollution Control Boards (SPCB)/Pollution Control Committees (PCCs) in 583 cities across the country. Ambient air quality data collected or authenticated by CPCB and SPCB/PCC is only recognised and disseminated to public.

Total 1597 air quality monitoring stations (CAAQMS and NAMP stations) are present across 583 cities, under which, 562 are Continuous Ambient Air Quality Monitoring Stations (CAAQMS) and 1035 are Manual stations.

Presently Air Quality Index (AQI) is disseminated on real-time basis in more than 250 cities. A centralised air quality portal and mobile app-SAMEER is 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. 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. Further, air quality monitoring data is also made available by respective SPCBs/PCCs on their websites.

Annexure-I

Details of State-wise allocation, release and Utilisation of funds under NCAP for FY 2019-20 to 2025-26

(Rs. in crore)

S. no.	State	Allocation	Released	Utilisation
1	Andhra Pradesh	734.9	407.25	215.84
2	Assam	156.52	108.72	64.26
3	Bihar	870.13	380.17	291.95
4	Chandigarh	55.2	43.37	31.17
5	Chhattisgarh	427.74	302.95	201.04
6	Delhi	103.3	81.36	14.1
7	Gujarat	1533	1282.98	1065.42
8	Haryana	182	107.14	49.87
9	Himachal Pradesh	29.43	22.84	16.93
10	Jammu & Kashmir	278.14	188	58.53
11	Jharkhand	604	279.44	184.52
12	Karnataka	1210.6	625.93	472.39
13	Madhya Pradesh	1234.52	834.65	659.42
14	Maharashtra	3334.03	1794.85	1439.68
15	Meghalaya	12.16	12.16	6.41
16	Nagaland	31.13	31.13	18.34
17	Odisha	195.8	107.54	77.07
18	Punjab	542.7	351.69	234.9
19	Rajasthan	1151.17	687.45	589.08
20	Tamilnadu	903.7	655.15	550.46
21	Telangana	906.05	739.67	529.67
22	Uttar Pradesh	3799.3	2941.16	2245.78
23	Uttarakhand	148.4	102.97	65.38
24	West Bengal	1685.24	1326.87	920.64
	Total	20129.16	13415.43	10002.85