

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1423
TO BE ANSWERED ON 09.02.2026

Air and Water Pollution

1423. THIRU THANGA TAMILSELVAN:
DR. GANAPATHY RAJKUMAR P:

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

- (a) it is true that the air and water pollution pose significant threats to public health and the environment across the country particularly in National Capital Region (NCR);
- (b) If so, the details thereof;
- (c) the details of action taken or proposed to be taken to control air and water pollution in the country, particularly in NCR;
- (d) the total amount earmarked, released and utilised during the last five years and the current year to control air and water pollution in the country, State/UT-wise; and
- (e) the outcome of the action taken to control air and water pollution in the country?

ANSWER

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

(a) to (e): Pollution is one of the factors that affect human health, other than the factors like food habits, occupational habits, socio-economic status, medical history, immunity, heredity, etc.

The Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEF&CC) regulate air and water quality by enactment of Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974, Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1981 and Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 and notified different Rules, Regulations based on the said acts to implement various Schemes for protection and development of air and water bodies.

As per the provisions of the above said acts, all industrial units and other establishments generating industrial effluents, emissions are required to comply with the stipulated standards before release of emission and discharging of effluents into rivers and water bodies.

CPCB, State Pollution Control Boards (SPCB)/Pollution Control Committees (PCCs) monitor emissions and discharge of effluents from industries to ensure compliance of the provisions of the said Acts and take necessary action accordingly. CPCB issued indicative Guidelines for restoration of water bodies' as a guidance to the Stakeholders for ensuring restoration/ rejuvenation of water bodies.

To control Air pollution in the country Government of India has launched the National Clean Air Programme (NCAP) in 2019 as 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.

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, out of which 64 cities have shown reduction in PM10 levels by more than 20% and 25 of these cities have achieved a reduction of more than 40%. 22 Cities have met National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS) and have PM10 Concentrations less than 60 µg/m³.

To control Water Pollution across the country, National Water Quality Monitoring Programme (NWMP) a nation-wide programme is executed for the prevention, control and abatement of water pollution and to collect, compile and publish technical and statistical data related to water pollution. Under NWMP, Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) at present monitors water quality of aquatic resources in the country in association with the State Pollution Control Boards (SPCBs)/Pollution Control Committees (PCCs) at 4922 locations including 2265 locations on Rivers. The water quality data under National Water Quality Monitoring Programme (NWMP) is utilized for identification of Polluted River Stretches (PRS) based on the level of organic load which is measured in terms of biochemical oxygen demand (BOD) concentration.

For rejuvenation of polluted river stretches identified by CPCB, action plans were prepared. These action plans were prepared by River Rejuvenation Committees (RRC's) constituted by the respective State Government/ UT Administration, under the overall supervision and coordination of Principal Secretary, Environment of the concerned State/ Union Territory. The action plans were prepared for bringing the polluted river stretches to obtain water quality level fit for bathing purposes.

Progress of implementation of action plans is reviewed by the RRC's at State Level and by Central Monitoring Committee (CMC) constituted under the Chairmanship of Secretary, Ministry of Jal Shakti at Central Level.

The details of action taken to control air and water pollution in Delhi NCR is enclosed as **Annexure-I**.

Under NCAP, Performance linked grant of ₹ 13,415.43 crore has been provided to 130 cities as a critical gap funding to implement air pollution mitigation measures, from 2019-20 till date. During the period from 2018-19 to 2025-26 (as on 20.01.2026), Rs. 4173.84 crores have been released (Punjab-Rs. 2026.45 crores, Haryana- Rs. 1156.71 crores, Uttar Pradesh- Rs. 838.67 crores, Madhya Pradesh- Rs. 45.00 crores, NCT of Delhi- Rs. 6.05 crores, ICAR- Rs. 93.235 crores and others Rs. 7.7205 crores) by Ministry of Agriculture & Farmer's Welfare under Crop Residue Management scheme to address air pollution caused due to paddy stubble burning and to subsidize machinery required for management of crop residue. The States have distributed more than 3.50 lakh machines to the individual famers and established more than 43,415 Custom Hiring Centres (CHC) in the States.

Details of State-wise funds provided under NCAP, National Ambient Air Quality Programme (NAMP), National Water Quality Monitoring Programme (NWMP) and 'Assistance for abatement of Pollution to SPCB/PCCs' are provided at Annexure II, Annexure III, Annexure IV and Annexure V

1. Measures undertaken to control air pollution in Delhi-NCR

- i. Commission for Air Quality Management (CAQM) established 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.
- ii. 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.
- iii. To tackle air pollution in emergencies, Graded Response Action Plan (GRAP) for Delhi-NCR has been prepared, which provides set of emergency response actions, depending on severity of air pollution levels, and implemented by identified agencies for minimizing air pollution, a situation that generally persists in the Delhi-NCR during the peak winter months.
- iv. Critical gap funding has been provided to 6 cities of Delhi-NCR (Alwar, Noida, Delhi, Faridabad, Ghaziabad and Meerut) under National Clean Air Program (NCAP) and other 19 cities by Central Pollution Control Board to implement air quality improvement measures.
- v. Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) also provided financial assistance for establishment of 27 paddy straw based pelletisation and torrefaction plants (23 in Punjab, 04 in Haryana) with a capacity to utilise 5.16 lakh tonnes paddy straw annually.
- vi. 5340 CNG/e-buses have been deployed for public transport in Delhi including 3535 e-buses. 2800 E-Buses and 1100 E-trucks have been allocated for Delhi under PM E-DRIVE scheme of Ministry of Heavy Industries (MHI).
- vii. A total of 450 electric buses has been sanctioned for participating cities (Faridabad, Gurugram, Rohtak, Panipat, Karnal & Alwar) of NCR region. The total Central Assistance approved, so far, to NCR region for Behind-the-meter (BTM) power and civil depot infrastructure is ₹35.77 crore under the scheme. By exclusively providing electric buses, the scheme helps in reducing emissions and promoting sustainable mobility. Further, amount of Rs. 66,718.47 Crore has been released for Metro Rail/RRTS projects in Delhi and NCR region from FY 2014-15 and onwards.
- viii. All the industries in NCR have been shifted to approved fuels. Out of 240 industrial areas in Delhi-NCR, 224 industrial areas have been provided with PNG connectivity, 6 are provided through cascade system. Directions have been issued for mandating stringent emission norms for industries in NCR.
- ix. To fast-track cleaner mobility, Direction No. 94 dated 03.06.2025, as amended on 23.12.2025 issued by CAQM mandated that Motor Vehicle Aggregators, Delivery Service Providers and E-Commerce Entities shall not induct any conventional ICE vehicles running purely on diesel or petrol into their existing fleets of four-wheeler LCVs, four-wheeler LGVs (N1 category up to 3.5 tonnes) and two-wheelers from 01.01.2026 onwards. However, induction of BS-VI emission standard two-wheelers has been permitted in existing fleets up to 31.12.2026.
- x. Directions were issued by CAQM to shift public transport buses coming from neighbouring States to BS-VI diesel/CNG/EV. From 01.11.2026, only CNG/EV/BS-VI diesel buses, including tourist buses, have been permitted to enter Delhi.
- xi. Entry of Commercial goods vehicles with non BS-VI Low Goods, Medium Goods and High Goods Vehicles into Delhi has been prohibited from 01.11.2025, with limited, time-bound relaxation for BS-IV vehicles up to 31.10.2026.
- xii. To address air pollution from construction and demolition activities, construction projects having built up area above 500 square meters have been mandated to register on SPCB/DPCC

- portals, with provisions for video fencing, remote access, standardized checklists, fortnightly self-audits and installation of PM_{2.5}/PM₁₀ monitors.
- xiii. 70 Dust Control and Management Cells have been set up by road owning agencies across Delhi-NCR, with regular reviews by the CAQM. States and GNCTD have augmented infrastructure for dust control, including mechanized road sweeping machines, water sprinklers and anti-smog guns.

2. Measures undertaken for prevention and control of Water pollution in River Ganga

- i. Assessment of water quality of River Ganga is carried out by CPCB through monitoring at 112 locations on fortnightly basis in 5 River Ganga main stem states namely Uttarakhand (19), Uttar Pradesh (41), Bihar (33), Jharkhand (4) and West Bengal (15).
- ii. Annual inspection of GPIs: Grossly Polluting Industries (GPIs) are industries having potential to discharge BOD load of 100 kg/day and/or toxic effluents. The activity is carried out under Pollution Inventorization Assessment and Surveillance (PIAS) project funded by National Mission for Clean Ganga (NMCG) since 2017.
- iii. Inventory of GPIs is finalized in consultation with concerned State Pollution Control Boards/Committees (SPCBs/PCC) on annual basis.
- iv. The inspections are carried out by joint teams of officials comprising of officials from technical institutes and concerned SPCBs/PCC.
- v. Actions on the inspection report are taken by SPCBs/PCC. The physical verification, sealing and power disconnection of non-compliant GPIs are enforced through District Magistrates. Closure of 358 GPIs (26 districts) in 2017, 325 GPIs (29 districts) in 2018, 131 GPIs (33 districts) in 2019, 171 GPIs (18 districts) in 2020, 177 GPIs (25 districts) in 2022, 239 GPIs (29 districts) in 2023 & 98 GPIs (30 districts) in 2024 were ensured through District Magistrates.

3. Measures undertaken for prevention and control of Water pollution in River Yamuna

- i. Monitoring of water quality is carried out at 33 locations by SPCBs of Uttarakhand (04 locations), Himachal Pradesh (04 locations), Haryana (06 locations), Delhi (07 locations) and Uttar Pradesh (12 locations) under National Water Quality Monitoring Programme (NWMP) of CPCB.
- ii. Annual inspection of Grossly Polluting Industries (GPIs) operating in Yamuna main stem states of Uttarakhand, Haryana, Delhi & Uttar Pradesh is being carried out since 2020 by joint teams of officials from technical institutes like IITs, NITs and SPCBs/PCCs.
- iii. Actions on the inspection report are taken by SPCBs/PCC. The physical verification, sealing and power disconnection of non-compliant GPIs are enforced through District Magistrates. Physical verification, sealing & power disconnection of 372 GPIs (24 districts) in 2021, 270 GPIs (19 districts) in 2022 and 300 GPIs (29 districts) in 2023 and 322 GPIs (28 districts) in 2024 were ensured through District Magistrates.
- iv. MoEF&CC and Ministry of Jal Shakti jointly released the Detailed Project Reports (DPRs) on rejuvenation of 13 major rivers including Yamuna river through Forestry Interventions and convergence of schemes of other line departments in the states and funding support from the Government of India. So far, 1311.74 sq. km area of Yamuna River basin has been treated under natural landscape, afforestation and soil and moisture conservation.
- v. In addition, till 2024-25, afforestation and plantation activities were undertaken along the Yamuna Flood Plains under the jurisdiction of the Central Forest Division, Govt. of NCT of Delhi. A total of 3,11,203 saplings were planted over an area of 271.248 hectares.

Annexure II

State Wise Fund allocation, release & utilization details under NCAP for the FY 2019-20 to 2025-26 in Crores (as on 05.02.2026)					
Sr. no	States/Uts	Allocation	Released	Utilisation	Utilisation in %
1	Gujarat	1533.00	1282.98	1131.00	88.15
2	Rajasthan	1151.17	687.45	598.02	86.99
3	Madhya Pradesh	1234.52	834.65	710.64	85.14
4	Maharashtra	3334.03	1794.85	1512.05	84.24
5	Bihar	870.13	380.17	295.82	77.81
6	Himachal Pradesh	29.43	22.84	17.24	75.48
7	Uttar Pradesh	3799.28	3127.66	2359.21	75.43
8	Chhattisgarh	427.74	302.95	227.00	74.93
9	Karnataka	1210.60	625.93	468.99	74.93
10	Assam	156.52	108.72	80.51	74.05
11	Odisha	195.76	107.54	79.30	73.74
12	Chandigarh	55.17	43.37	31.17	71.87
13	Telangana	906.05	739.67	529.67	71.61
14	West Bengal	1685.24	1326.87	938.64	70.74
15	Tamilnadu	903.68	789.65	550.46	69.71
16	Punjab	542.69	399.94	277.30	69.34
17	Jharkhand	604.00	279.44	190.24	68.08
18	Uttrakhand	148.39	102.97	65.45	63.56
19	Nagaland	31.04	31.13	19.20	61.68
20	Meghalaya	11.64	12.16	6.42	52.80
21	Haryana	182.00	107.14	53.26	49.71
22	Andhra Pradesh	734.86	474.79	230.57	48.56
23	Jammu & Kashmir	278.13	188.00	79.65	42.37
24	Delhi	103.29	81.36	15.74	19.35
	Total	20130	13852.23	10467.55	75.57

Annexure- III

Details of funds released to SPCBs/PCCs under NAMP during FY 2019-20 to FY 2023-24.

State Name	Total Funds
Andaman & Nicobar (UT)	6,176,000
Andhra Pradesh	115,839,000
Arunachal Pradesh	12,629,338
Assam	84,523,666
Bihar	17,117,000
Chandigarh (UT)	9,221,334
Chattisgarh	29,729,668
Dadara & Nagar Haveli and Daman & Diu (UT)	16,197,000
Goa	112,135,249
Gujarat	53,511,582
Haryana	2,020,000
Himachal Pradesh	89,258,044
Jammu & Kashmir (UT)	29,795,333
Jharkhand	78,896,000
Karnataka	88,849,333
Kerala	42,996,997
Lakshadweep (UT)	1,700,000
Madhya Pradesh	26,167,000
Maharashtra	95,484,001
Manipur	18,327,336
Meghalaya	49,868,001
Mizoram	62,111,334
Nagaland	52,798,667
Odisha	71,227,627
Pondicherry (UT)	13,200,000
Punjab	81,120,999
Rajasthan	66,239,000
Sikkim	36,334,000
Tamilnadu	62,786,667
Telangana	54,417,999
Tripura	10,908,667
Uttar Pradesh	161,851,800
Uttarakhand	48,853,667
West Bengal	180,482,333
Total	1,899,641,309

Annexure – IV

Reimbursement to SPCBs/ PCCs towards sampling and analysis charges for water quality data during last five years (2019–20 to 2023-24) under NWMP

SPCBs/ PCCs	Amount in Rs.
Andhra Pradesh	24,420,634.70
Arunachal Pradesh	983,611.00
Assam	52,262,300.00
Bihar	15,088,589.60
Chhattisgarh	7,923,045.00
Goa	20,919,810.00
Gujarat	26,176,408.30
Haryana	5,200,957.70
Himachal Pradesh	55,117,320.00
Jammu and Kashmir	13,643,070.00
Jharkhand	12,143,830.00
Karnataka	57,485,393.00
Kerala	33,310,753.70
Madhya Pradesh	40,324,983.30
Maharashtra	49,323,529.50
Manipur	11,291,240.00
Meghalaya	24,128,240.00
Mizoram	17,412,650.00
Nagaland	19,529,550.00
Odisha	38,678,054.80
Punjab	18,906,586.30
Rajasthan	14,809,734.80
Sikkim	3,895,140.00
Tamil Nadu	23,866,107.30
Telangana	41,415,731.00
Tripura	17,104,260.00
Uttar Pradesh	13,045,739.00
Uttarakhand	8,208,624.00
West Bengal	16,999,989.30
Chandigarh	1,944,480.00
Lakshadweep	1,842,180.00
Puducherry	2,692,123.00
Daman Diu & Dadra Nagar Haveli	7,323,667.00
Delhi **	2,771,253.10
TOTAL	700,189,585.40

*** Monitoring locations under NWMP were sanctioned to Delhi PCC during July, 2021 which were previously monitored by CPCB, H.O. – Delhi*

Annexure-V

Details of fund released under "Assistance for Abatement of Pollution in to SPCBs/PCCs (FY 2020-21 to 2024-25)		
S. No.	State	Total Amount released (in Rs.)
1	Andaman and Nicobar	10000000
2	Andhra Pradesh	212950951
3	Arunachal Pradesh	63590857
4	Assam	271695333
5	Bihar	108868000
6	Chandigarh	50000000
7	Chhattisgarh	95704134
8	Delhi	33387290
9	Goa	40000000
10	Gujarat	322259915
11	Haryana	44030243
12	Himachal	50000000
13	Jammu and Kashmir	32248500
14	Jharkhand	29200000
15	Karnataka	80932770
16	Kerala	84085000
17	Lakshadweep	15000000
18	Madhya Pradesh	44067761
19	Maharashtra	238584605
20	Manipur	40000000
21	Meghalaya	69516255
22	Mizoram	109520000
23	Nagaland	105000000
24	Odisha	83919717
25	Puducherry	35000000
26	Punjab	185089457
27	Rajasthan	104918131
28	Sikkim	67004000
29	Tamil Nadu	91183122
30	Telangana	48960091
31	Tripura	106045700
32	Uttar Pradesh	534513061
33	Uttarakhand	36656051
34	West Bengal	184160702
35	CPCB	191500000
36	Ladakh	5000000
	Total	3824591646