GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 391
TO BE ANSWERED ON 02.02.2026

National Strategy to Mitigate Extreme Heat in High-Footfall Public Areas

391. SHRI KONDA VISHWESHWAR REDDY:

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

(a) whether the Government has formulated a comprehensive national strategy to mitigate extreme heat in high-footfall public spaces such as markets, railway stations, bus terminals and pedestrian zones during the forthcoming summer, as part of climate adaptation measures, if so, the details thereof;
(b) whether international best practices in temperature control and heat-resilient public infrastructure such as shaded walkways, cool and reflective roofing, misting systems, urban greening and climate-responsive design have been examined for adoption in domestic conditions, if so, the details thereof;
(c) the details of advisories, guidelines and financial assistance issued under the National Action Plan on Climate Change, Heat Action Plans and allied schemes for implementation by States and urban local bodies; and
(d) whether any pilot projects have been undertaken or proposed in major cities and, if so, the timeline and roadmap for scaling up such interventions nationwide?

ANSWER

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

(a) to (d) The Government of India has undertaken a range of initiatives, in coordination with State Governments/ UT Administrations, to mitigate the impacts of extreme heat, including in urban spaces. The National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) issued national guidelines on heatwave management in 2016, which were revised in 2019. The guidelines, inter-alia, facilitates the heat wave prone States/ UTs to prepare their Heat Action Plans including for cities/towns to deal with the extreme heat wave situation. The guidelines focus on short-term, medium term and long-term measures for heat wave risk reduction.

India's climate action is guided by the National Action Plan on Climate Change (NAPCC) and State Action Plans on Climate Change (SAPCCs), which provide an overarching framework for addressing climate risks including heat stress. Over 250 cities and districts across 23 heat-prone states have implemented Heat Action Plans, supported by the NDMA through advisories, technical guidance, and institutional mechanisms. India follows a whole-of-government and whole-of-society approach, engaging multiple sectors such as health, agriculture, urban development, labour, power, water, education, and infrastructure to strengthen preparedness and response to extreme heat.

Heat resilience is further promoted through national policies and schemes including the India Cooling Action Plan, Atal Mission for Rejuvenation and Urban Transformation (AMRUT)/AMRUT 2.0, and energy efficiency codes of the Bureau of Energy Efficiency. These initiatives encourage measures such as cool and reflective roofing, urban greening, climate-responsive building design, and reduction of urban heat island effects. Financial support for heat-mitigation infrastructure is provided through urban programs, such as AMRUT and AMRUT 2.0, which fund development of urban parks and rejuvenation of water bodies. Additionally, the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs' Climate Smart Cities Assessment Framework (CSCAF) assesses and incentivizes city-level climate preparedness, including green cover, water management, energy efficiency, and climate adaptation.

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