

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1221
TO BE ANSWERED ON 27.07.2026

Mist Spraying Systems for Dust Control

1221. SHRI MADDILA GURUMOORTHY:

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

- (a) whether the Government has examined the feasibility of making dust suppression systems, including slab-level mist spraying, mandatory for high-rise construction projects to reduce particulate pollution and protect public health;
- (b) whether the Government proposes to issue uniform national guidelines for mandatory installation and operation of mist spraying systems at major construction sites;
- (c) whether the Government has considered implementing pilot projects for such dust control systems in Government-funded infrastructure and building projects;
- (d) whether any standards have been prescribed or proposed to be prescribed for monitoring compliance with dust control measures during construction activities; and
- (e) the steps being taken to reduce construction-related air pollution and ensure effective implementation of dust suppression measures across the country?

ANSWER

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

(a) to (e): CPCB has issued 'Guidelines on dust mitigation measures in handling construction material and C&D wastes' in November, 2017 and these guidelines prescribe the dust mitigation measures during construction activities.

CPCB issued directions on 20.12.2017 to all State Pollution Control Board/Pollution Control Committee (SPCBs/PCCs) to make the above mentioned guidelines to be part of the Consent management and direct Urban Local Bodies (ULB) to ensure compliance of these guidelines at construction sites in their jurisdiction.

CPCB issued directions on September 21, 2022 to all SPCBs/PCCs to ensure that construction and demolition activities are equipped with adequate dust mitigation measures, to ensure that large C&D activities having area more than 20,000 square meter are equipped with adequate dust mitigation measures including installation of anti-smog guns and also to ensure that a robust system of surveillance for compliance of above directions is put in place and any violation is dealt strictly as per law.

Building and Construction projects having $\geq 20,000$ sq. m and $< 1,50,000$ sq. m of built-up area, Townships and Area Development projects covering an area ≥ 50 ha and /or built-up area $\geq 1,50,000$

sq. m. are required to obtain prior Environmental Clearance under the Environmental Impact Assessment Notification issued by MoEF&CC vide S.O. 1533(E) dated 14.09.2006.

Such building and construction projects are required to prepare Environmental Management Plan and Conceptual plan and Townships and Area Development projects are required to carry out Environment Impact Assessment (EIA) study to assess the environmental impacts and prepare Environment Management Plan containing mitigation measures including air pollution mitigation during construction and operation phase of the project.

Ministry has delegated the powers under EIA Notification, 2006 to the State Level Expert Appraisal Committees (SEACs) for appraisal and the State Level Environment Impact Assessment Authorities (SEIAAs) for grant of Environmental Clearance for building and construction projects, and Townships and Area Development projects.

Further, State Pollution Control Board (SPCB)/Pollution Control Committees (PCC) grant Consent to Establish (CTE) and Consent to Operate (CTO) for Building construction projects under The Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1981 and The Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974.

Building Construction Projects with built up area $\geq 20,000$ sq. m. have been categorised into Orange (Pollution Index 55 to less than 80) and with built up area $\geq 5,000$ sq. m., but $< 20,000$ sq. m. have been categorised as Green (Pollution Index 25 to less than 55) categories, based on the pollution potential and are monitored by the respective State Pollution Control Board/Pollution Control Committees during its construction and operation phases.

Further, towards effective management and control of dust from the C&D activities, Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC) had notified the Environment (Construction and Demolition) Waste Management Rules, 2025, notified on 02.04.2025 vide G.S.R. 219(E). These rules emphasize the roles and accountability of waste generators at source and various stakeholders focusing on segregation, recovery, reuse, and recycling.

In the revised rules, waste generators of Construction and Demolition activities have been mandated for recycling of C&D waste generation under Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR). Further, waste generators have been mandated to utilise recycled or processed waste in all construction activities, having built-up area of 20,000 square meters or above, and road construction as per the defined targets.

Producers or occupiers, in-charge of construction projects have also been mandated to take steps to prevent air pollution, littering of waste including public nuisance during collection, segregation and storage of waste. The enforcement of the provisions, under the aforesaid rules, is to be carried out by State Pollution Control Board, Local authorities and Development Authorities.

CPCB vide letter dated 25.05.2026 issued directions under section 5 of the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 to all SPCB/PCCs for implementation of the Environment (Construction and Demolition) Management Rules, 2025, inter-alia include ensuring coordination with concerned State Departments for enforcement of the rules, for publication of schedule of Rates for recycled/processed C&D waste products for their utilization in construction and road works, States/UTs formulate and enforce mandatory policies for utilization of processed C&D waste in

road construction and infrastructure projects by linking with tender documents, establishment of adequate C&D waste collection centres in proximity to waste generation points.

Indian Road Congress (IRC) issued 'IRC 121:2017- Guidelines for Use of Construction and Demolition Waste in Road Sector'. These guidelines deal with the use of processed C&D waste such as Recycled Aggregate (RA) and Recycled Concrete Aggregate (RCA) for road works viz. embankments, sub-base and base course, for manufacturing kerb stones, paving blocks and for replacing certain portion of aggregates used in different types of cement concrete pavements.

The Commission for Air Quality Management in NCR and Adjoining Areas (CAQM) vide Direction Nos. 11-15 dated 11.06.2021 directed the Government of NCT of Delhi and NCR State Governments to put in place an online web portal for monitoring of compliance of dust mitigation measures by the large projects (with plot area above 500 square metres) and to ensure remote monitoring through technological intervention such as video fencing and ensure self-audit and certification mechanism by all the registered projects, in addition to other dust mitigation measures. Accordingly, Web portal is functional in all Delhi-NCR States. To effectively combat dust emissions CAQM vide Direction No. 69 dated 02.11.2022, also mandated deployment of adequate number of Anti-Smog Guns, in proportion to the area of the construction.
