

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 167
TO BE ANSWERED ON 20.07.2026

Check on Pollution

167. SHRI MANSUKHBHAI DHANJIBHAI VASAVA:

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

- (a) whether several diseases are spreading rapidly in the country due to pollution;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government is formulating any action plan to check/control pollution; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

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

(a) to (d): Health is impacted by a number of factors which includes food habits, occupational habits, socio-economic status, medical history, immunity, heredity, etc., of the individuals apart from the environment. As per the National Centre for Disease Control (NCDC), Ministry of Health & Family Welfare (MoH&FW) the relevant information regarding the diseases spreading in the country due to pollution is not available with the NCDC.

The Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEF&CC) enacted the 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 and Regulations under the said acts to prevent and control of air and water pollution.

Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEF&CC), Government of India notifies “Standards for Emission or Discharge of Environmental Pollutants from various Industries” under Schedule-I of the Environment (Protection) Rules, 1986. So far, 79 industrial specific environmental standards have been notified. In respect of the industrial sectors, for which specific standards are not available, general standards as notified under Schedule-VI of the Environment Protection Rules, 1986 are applicable.

Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) and 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.

For strengthening monitoring mechanism and effective compliance through self-regulatory mechanism, CPCB directed all 17 categories of highly polluting industries to install Online Continuous Emission Monitoring System (OCEMS).

Government has launched the National Clean Air Programme (NCAP) as a long-term, time-bound, national-level strategy to address air pollution in non-attainment cities in 24 States/UTs.

City Specific Clean Air Action Plans have been prepared for all cities under NCAP to implement air quality improvement measures in respective cities to target air pollution sources like soil & road dust, vehicular emissions, waste burning, Construction & Demolition activities and industrial pollution.

Air quality performance based incentive grant of ₹ 16,423.56 crore has been released to targeted cities under National Clean Air Programme (NCAP) as a critical gap funding to implement air pollution mitigation measures, during FY 2019-20 till 2025-26.

SPCBs / PCCs have been directed under Section 18(1) (b) of the Water (Prevention & Control of Pollution) Act, 1974 to direct concerned agencies in the State/UT to develop infrastructure for sewage treatment.

SPCBs/PCCs in collaboration CPCB with regularly monitors water quality of surface waters (rivers/lakes) and coastal waters to assess status of water quality of water resources to facilitate prevention and control of pollution in water bodies.

For rejuvenation of Polluted River Stretches (PRS) identified by CPCB, action plans were prepared by River Rejuvenation Committee (RRC) constituted by the respective State Government/ UT Administration, under the overall supervision and coordination of Principal Secretary, Environment of the concerned State/ Union Territory for bringing all the polluted river stretches to achieve water quality levels fit for bathing purposes (i.e. BOD < 3 mg/L and FC < 500 MPN/100 mL).

To ensure environmentally sound management of different categories of waste, the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEF&CC) has notified various waste management rules under the Environmental (Protection) Act, 1986. These rules include:

- i. **Hazardous and Other Wastes (Management and Transboundary Movement) Rules, 2016**, to regulate the handling, import, export, recycling, utilization (including co-processing) and disposal of hazardous waste.
- ii. **Plastic Waste Management Rules, 2016** focus on regulating the plastic waste, phasing out single-use plastics, and management of packaging wastes.
- iii. **Bio-Medical Waste Management Rules, 2016**, to ensure segregation, collection, and safe disposal of bio medical waste.
- iv. **E-Waste (Management) Rules, 2022**, to regulate the collection, transportation, and recycling and refurbishing electronic waste
- v. **Battery Waste Management Rules, 2022**, to regulate the collection, transportation and recycling of battery waste.

vi. **Environment (Construction and Demolition) Waste Management Rules, 2025**, effective from April 01, 2026, replaces the Rules, 2016, in order to align with the principles of circular economy and resource efficiency and to regulate the management of waste generated from construction and demolition activities.

vii. **Environment Protection (End- of- Life Vehicles) Rules, 2025**, to regulate the environmentally sound management of End-of-Life vehicles.

viii. **Solid Waste Management Rules, 2026**, effective from April 01, 2026, replace the 2016 framework by mandating segregation of wastes at source in to four streams (wet, dry, sanitary, and special care) along with door-to-door collection, accountability of bulk waste generator, digital monitoring and waste processing.
