

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

LOK SABHA
UN-STARRED QUESTION NO. 2059
TO BE ANSWERED ON 12.02.2021

Air Quality in Cities

2059 SHRI RODMAL NAGAR:
SHRI PARTHIBAN S.R.:
SHRI NAMA NAGESWARA RAO:
SHRI GOPAL CHINNAYA SHETTY:
DR. T. SUMATHY (A) THAMIZHACHITHANGAPANDIAN:

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

- (a) the details of pollution level in various major/ metropolitan cities of the country;
- (b) the names of those metropolitan cities which are complying with fundamental guidelines to check the increase in air pollution;
- (c) whether capital city Delhi is one of the most polluted cities despite all the efforts made to keep pollution under control, if so, the details thereof and the reasons for failure in controlling pollution level in the capital;
- (d) whether the Government proposes to promote use of cycling among common people in view of its health benefits and if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the other steps taken by the Government to check pollution and improve air quality in various polluted cities in a time bound manner?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE
(SHRI BABUL SUPRIYO)

(a) and (b) The details of pollution level during 2019 in 51 metropolitan cities having million plus population in India is given in **Annexure-I**.

Under NCAP, 122 cities which are consistently exceeding the National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS) are identified as non-attainment cities.

The Central Government launched National Clean Air Programme (NCAP) as a long-term, time-bound, national level strategy to tackle the air pollution problem across the country in a comprehensive manner with targets to achieve 20 % to 30 % reduction in PM10 and PM2.5 concentrations by 2024 keeping 2017 as the base year for the comparison of concentration. and

City specific Action Plans have been prepared which is targeting the city specific air polluting sources (vehicular emission, road dust, biomass/crop/garbage/MSW burning, construction activities, industrial emission and other city specific sources).

(c) CPCB doesn't rank cities on the basis of pollution. However, it is observed that the Air Quality in Delhi has improved. The 'Good', 'Satisfactory' and 'Moderate' days increased to 182 in 2019 in comparison to 108 in 2016 whereas, number of 'Poor', 'Very Poor' and 'Severe' reduced from 246 in 2016 to 183 in 2019.

(d) City specific action plans include the promotion of cycling as non-motorized transport in 31 non-attainment cities viz. Bareilly, Jhansi, Lucknow, Moradabad, Noida, Prayagraj, Raebareli, Varanasi, Dhanbad, Angul, Balasor, Bhubaneswar, Cuttack, Rourkela, Talcher, Pune, Aurangabad, Nashik, Navi Mumbai, Amravati, Kolhapur, Nagpur, Sangli, Mumbai, Solapur, Vishakhapatnam, Guwahati, Silchar, Nalbari, Nagaon, Sivasagar. Rs. 2 crore has been released to Pune specifically for setting up of bicycle tracks under National Clean Air Programme (NCAP).

Government of India has launched India Cycles 4 Change Challenge as an initiative under Smart Cities Mission to inspire and support Indian cities to implement cycling-friendly initiatives. 107 cities registered for the Challenge and are working towards implementing low-cost interventions like pop-up lanes, traffic-calmed streets, community cycle rental schemes, and cycle-training programs.

(e) Government has taken several steps for mitigation of air pollution such as introduction of BS-VI, expansion of Metro, operationalization of Eastern and Western peripheral expressways, shifting of industries to PNG, waste processing plants, online round the clock monitoring of red category industries, etc. The details of initiatives taken by government to combat air pollution is at **Annexure –II**. Due to the concerted efforts of the Government the air quality in Delhi has observed an improvement.

While the Government is making strenuous efforts to mitigate air pollution, the citizens are requested to extend support for the following activities such as:

- Renew your Pollution Under Control Certificate timely.
- Avoid idling of engines.
- Plan your errands to reduce travel time and trips.
- Adopt clean modes of transport.
- Prefer cycles/ e-bikes for short trips.
- Adopt public transportation wherever feasible.
- Avoid Congested routes. Segregate household waste
- Never burn waste
- Take recyclable waste to collection centres & earn from waste too
- Compost leaves and garden waste
- Avoid vigorous sweeping of leaves in gardens/ parks – use wide rakes
- Dispose e-waste responsibly.
- Adopt green good deeds and encourage others too.
- Use public grievance redressal apps to inform air polluting activities to authorities
- Share about ongoing clean initiatives with others

Annexure I

**DETAILS OF POLLUTION LEVEL DURING 2019 IN 51 METROPOLITAN CITIES
HAVING MILLION PLUS POPULATION**

State	S. No.	City	PM ₁₀ inµg/m ³ (2019)
Andhra Pradesh	1.	Vijayawada	73
	2.	Vishakhapatnam	76
Bihar	3.	Patna	237
Chandigarh	4.	Chandigarh	97
Chhattisgarh	5.	Durg-Bhillainagar	79
	6.	Raipur	69
Delhi	7.	Delhi	218
Gujarat	8.	Ahmedabad	135
	9.	Rajkot	127
	10.	Surat	128
	11.	Vadodara	131
Haryana	12.	Faridabad	132
Jharkhand	13.	Dhanbad	237
	14.	Jamshedpur	138
	15.	Ranchi	109
Karnataka	16.	Bangalore	74
Kerala	17.	Kochi	46
	18.	Kollam	45
	19.	Kozhikode	44
	20.	Malapuram	35
	21.	Thiruvananthapuram	42
	22.	Thissur	38
Madhya Pradesh	23.	Bhopal	161
	24.	Gwalior	139
	25.	Indore	77
	26.	Jabalpur	84
Maharashtra	27.	Aurangabad	74
	28.	Mumbai	125
	29.	Nagpur	101
	30.	Nashik	63
	31.	Pune	143
	32.	Thane	128
Punjab	33.	Amritsar	170
	34.	Ludhiana	153
Rajasthan	35.	Jaipur	141
	36.	Jodhpur	240
	37.	Kota	129

Tamilnadu	38.	Chennai	73
	39.	Coimbatore	57
	40.	Madurai	79
	41.	Trichy	73
Telangana	42.	Hyderabad	99
Uttar Pradesh	43.	Agra	186
	44.	Allahabad	222
	45.	Ghaziabad	208
	46.	Kanpur	198
	47.	Lucknow	208
	48.	Meerut	213
	49.	Varanasi	184
West Bengal	50.	Asansol	184
	51.	Kolkata	104

CENTRAL GOVERNMENT INITIATIVES TO COMBAT AIR POLLUTION

Based on air quality data, 122 non-attainment cities (NACs) have been identified under NCAP and City Specific Clean Air Action Plans have been prepared and approved for 111NACs. The other measures taken by the Government includes:

i. Vehicular Pollution Control

- Leapfrogging from BS-IV to BS-VI norms for fuel and vehicles since April, 2020.
- Network of Metro rails for public transport are enhanced and more cities are covered.
- Development of Expressway and Highways are also reducing the fuel consumption and pollution.
- Introduction of cleaner/alternate fuels like CNG, LPG, ethanol blending in petrol.
- Faster Adoption and Manufacturing of Electric Vehicles (FAME) -2 scheme has been rolled out
- Permit requirement for electric vehicles has been exempted.
- Promotion of public transport and improvements in roads and building of more bridges to ease congestion on roads.

ii. Industrial Pollution Control

- Stringent emission norms for Coal based Thermal Power Plants (TPPs).
- Pet coke and furnace oil have been banned as fuel in Delhi and NCR States.
- Industrial units shifting to PNG.
- Installation of on-line continuous monitoring devices in highly polluting industries.
- Shifting of Brick kilns to zig-zag technology for reduction of pollution

iii. Waste Management

- Notifications of 6 waste management rules covering solid waste, plastic waste, e-waste, bio-medical waste, C&D waste and hazardous waste.
- Setting up infrastructure such as waste processing plants.
- Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) for plastic and e-waste management.
- Ban on burning of biomass/garbage.

iv. Crop Residue Management

- Under Central Sector Scheme on 'Promotion of Agricultural Mechanization for in-situ management of Crop Residue in the States of Punjab, Haryana, Uttar Pradesh and NCT of Delhi', agricultural machines and equipment for in-situ crop residue management are promoted with 50% subsidy to the individual farmers and 80% subsidy for establishment of Custom Hiring Centres.

i. Monitoring of Air Quality

- Expansion of air quality monitoring network under National Air Quality Monitoring Programme (NAMP)
- Implementation of Air Quality Early Warning System for Delhi. The system provides alerts for taking timely actions.

v. Allocation of funds

- ₹ 336.8 crores have been sanctioned to non-attainment cities under NCAP for initiating actions such as expansion of monitoring network, construction and demolition waste management facilities, non-motorised transport infrastructure, green buffers, mechanical street sweepers, composting units etc.

- ₹2200 crores have been released in the Budget of FY 2020-21 to tackle the burgeoning problem of air pollution. Further, an amount of 2,217 crores has been allocated for 42 urban centres with a million-plus population in this budget for improvement of air quality.
- Rs. 7365.82 Crores was allocated for Solid Waste Management under Urban Swachh Bharat Mission from 2014-2019.
- Under Atal Mission for Rejuvenation and Urban Transformation (AMRUT) scheme Rs. 1436 Crore have been allocated for non-motorised urban transport and Rs. 1768 Crores for green spaces and parks for five years from FY2015-16 to FY2019-20.
- A provision of 1,41,678 crores over a period of 5 years from 2021-2026 has been made for Urban Swachh Bharat Mission 2.0 with a focus on air pollution reduction by effectively managing waste from construction-and-demolition activities and bio-remediation of all legacy dump sites.
- ₹ 1726.67 crores have been released for crop residue management in the States of Punjab, Haryana, Uttar Pradesh and NCT of Delhi, during the year 2018-21.

vi. Public Participation

- This Ministry has an ongoing Environment Education, Awareness and among all sections of the society, especially school and college level students and to mobilize people's participation for conservation of environment.
- The Green Good Deeds (GGDs), a social movement, is one of the components of the scheme aimed to inculcate green good habits and behaviour among all sections of the society to take green social responsibility such as minimizing the use of single-use plastic, celebrating Green Diwali, use of public transport, avoid personal car and promoting car pool, regular check-ups to get Pollution Control Certificate (PUC), save electricity, save water, avoid congested lanes etc. The detailed suggestive list of good deeds is available at <http://164.100.160.232/sbhb/GoodDeeds.aspx>
