GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 386
TO BE ANSWERED ON 02.02.2026

Performance of the National Clean Air Programme

386. SHRI SURESH KUMAR SHETKAR:
SHRI MANICKAM TAGORE B:
SHRI VIJAYAKUMAR ALIAS VIJAY VASANTH:
SHRI V K SREEKANDAN:

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

(a) whether the Government project, National Clean Air Programme (NCAP) as effective even when 1,787 towns facing chronic air pollution, yet only 130 cities are covered, leaving the vast majority of affected populations outside policy intervention;
(b) whether the Government accept air pollution as a nationwide structural public health crisis, and if so, the reasons behind NCAP currently address barely four percent of chronically polluted statutory towns;
(c) the reasons for 28 NCAP cities still lack Continuous Ambient Air Quality Monitoring Stations, despite monitoring being fundamental for scientific assessment, accountability, and protection of citizens' health;
(d) whether 100 out of 102 monitored cities report PM10 levels exceeding 80 per cent of permissible limits, showing persistent and worsening pollution trends, if so, the reaction of the Government thereto; and
(e) whether the Government has failed to officially declare air pollution a public health emergency despite satellite data showing sustained PM2.5 violations across forty-four per cent of India's statutory towns, if so, the action taken by the Government in this regard?

ANSWER

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

(a) to (e): 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 cities across 24 States/UTs. A total of 130 cities, including 122 non-attainment cities that failed to meet the National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS) for PM10 levels for five consecutive years (2015-2019), and 8 million-plus cities and urban agglomeration areas. These 130 cities include Tier-2 and Tier-3 cities across 24 States/UTs.

City Specific Clean Air Action Plans have been prepared for all 130 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.

Performance linked grant of ₹ 13,852.20 crore has been released to 130 cities under National Clean Air Programme (NCAP) as a critical gap funding to implement air pollution mitigation measures, since 2019-20 till date.

In addition to this, NCAP emphasizes mobilization of resources through the convergence of resources from various Central Government schemes such as Swachh Bharat Mission (Urban), AMRUT, Smart City Mission, PM e-Bus Sewa, PM E-DRIVE, SATAT, and Nagar Van Yojana, as well as resources from State Govts./ UT administration and agencies like Municipal Corporations and Urban Development authorities. Various Ministries/Departments of Govt. of India provide funding under their Schemes/ Programmes as per their budgets.

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 in the Delhi-NCR during the peak winter months.

Emergency Response System (ERS) in line with Graded Response Action Plan (GRAP) of Delhi-NCR, has been developed in identified non-attainment/ million plus cities under NCAP. The higher emission zones/hotspots within the city have been identified and detailed action plan for the identified sources in these hotspots have been prepared.

Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, issued 'Health Advisory on Air Pollution' to all States/UTs for strengthening health care services to address health issues arising due to exposure to air pollution.

CPCB issued criteria for establishing and operation of Ambient Air Quality Monitoring stations. Accordingly, 1601 monitoring stations (566 Continuous Ambient Air Quality Monitoring Stations and 1035 Manual monitoring stations) have been installed in 583 cities across the country. PM2.5 monitoring is carried out in more than 492 cities. In 130 cities covered under NCAP, 838 monitoring stations are operational for collection of ambient air quality data as well as air assessment of quality performance of cities. In 28 NCAP cities where continuous monitoring stations are not available, 82 ambient air quality stations are functional and ground level air quality data is monitored regularly by CPCB and SPCBs.

Air quality data collection through satellite technology has inherent limitations and uncertainties and lacks ground level validation. Satellites Aerosol Optical Depth (AOD) measurements are only indicative of aerosol loading in the entire atmospheric column and could be influenced by upper aerosol layers and cloud contaminations and do not accurately measure the real ground level PM2.5 concentrations.

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%. A total of 22 Cities have met National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS) and have PM10 Concentrations less than 60 µg/m3. Air quality details of 130 cities under NCAP, are enclosed at Annexure -I.

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Annexure I

States	Sl. No.	Cities	Average of $PM_{10}(\mu g/m^3)$ concentration for FY 2017-18	Average of $PM_{10}(\mu g/m^3)$ concentration for FY 2024-25	% improvement in $PM_{10}(\mu g/m^3)$ concentration in FY 2024-25 w.r.t. FY 2017-18
Andhra Pradesh	1	Ananthpur	78	60	23.1
	2	Chittoor	70	60	14.3
	3	Eluru	72	64	11.1
	4	Guntur	66	64	3.0
	5	Kadapa	75	56	25.3
	6	Kurnool	79	60	24.1
	7	Nellore	64	51	20.3
	8	Ongole	65	58	10.8
	9	Rajahmundry	85	59	30.6
	10	Srikakulam	69	79	-14.5
	11	Vijayawada	91	64	29.7
	12	Visakhapatnam	76	101	-32.9
	13	Vizhianagaram	72	74	-2.8
Assam	14	Guwahati	103	100	2.9
	15	Nagaon	82	65	20.7
	16	Nalbari	87	85	2.3
	17	Silchar	49	54	-10.2
	18	Sivasagar	73	55	24.7
Bihar	19	Patna	172	167	2.9
	20	Gaya	79	87	-10.1
	21	Muzaffarpur	147	131	10.9
Chandigarh	22	Chandigarh	114	114	0.0
Chhattisgarh	23	Korba	57	69	-21.1
	24	Durg Bhilainagar	86	69	19.8
	25	Raipur	70	75	-7.1
Delhi	26	Delhi	241	203	15.8
Gujarat	27	Ahmedabad	164	103	37.2
	28	Rajkot	150	89	40.7
	29	Surat	130	71	45.4
	30	Vadodara	133	90	32.3
Haryana	31	Faridabad	229	147	35.8
Himachal Pradesh	32	Baddi	174	108	37.9
	33	Damtal	55	56	-1.8
	34	Kala Amb	118	84	28.8
	35	Nalagarh	146	68	53.4
	36	Paonta Sahib	84	81	3.6

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	37	Parwanoo	66	48	27.3
	38	Sunder Nagar	78	47	39.7
Jammu	39	Jammu	157	124	21.0
	40	Srinagar	132	76	42.4
Jharkhand	41	Dhanbad	315	166	47.3
	42	Jamshedpur	135	145	-7.4
	43	Ranchi	141	107	24.1
Karnataka	44	Bengaluru	92	68	26.1
	45	Devanagere	74	57	23.0
	46	Gulburga / Kalaburgi	55	52	5.5
	47	Hubli-Dharwad	79	61	22.8
Madhya Pradesh	48	Bhopal	112	107	4.5
	49	Dewas	83	86	-3.6
	50	Gwalior	126	117	7.1
	51	Indore	82	83	-1.2
	52	Jabalpur	101	73	27.7
	53	Sagar	73	79	-8.2
	54	Ujjain	93	80	14.0
Maharashtra	55	Aurangabad	75	100	-33.3
	56	Akola	111	74	33.3
	57	Amravati	102	76	25.5
	58	Badlapur	160	90	43.8
	59	Chandrapur	118	111	5.9
	60	Greater Mumbai	161	90	44.1
	61	Jalgaon	70	93	-32.9
	62	Jalna	99	93	6.1
	63	Kolhapur	89	81	9.0
	64	Latur	82	67	18.3
	65	Nagpur	100	92	8.0
	66	Nashik	82	76	7.3
	67	Navi Mumbai	88	90	-2.3
	68	Pune	102	93	8.8
	69	Sangli	87	74	14.9
	70	Solapur	81	83	-2.5
	71	Thane	138	90	34.8
	72	Ulhasnagar	153	90	41.2
	73	Vasai-virar	99	90	9.1

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Meghalaya	74	Byrnihat	175	98	44.0
Nagaland	75	Dimapur	142	112	21.1
	76	Kohima	127	71	44.1
Odisha	77	Angul	97	116	-19.6
	78	Balasore	84	93	-10.7
	79	Bhubaneshwar	85	86	-1.2
	80	Cuttack	93	89	4.3
	81	Kalinga Nagar	109	109	0.0
	82	Rourkela	99	111	-12.1
	83	Talcher	113	119	-5.3
Punjab	84	Amritsar	189	112	40.7
	85	Dera Baba Nanak	79	58	26.6
	86	Dera Bassi	88	98	-11.4
	87	Jalandhar	178	99	44.4
	88	Khanna	142	101	28.9
	89	Ludhiana	168	129	23.2
	90	Mandi Gobindgarh	148	124	16.2
	91	Naya Nangal	87	58	33.3
	92	Patiala	106	91	14.2
Rajasthan	93	Jaipur	172	142	17.4
	94	Alwar	152	105	30.9
	95	Jodhpur	189	122	35.4
	96	Kota	139	115	17.3
	97	Udaipur	127	121	4.7
Tamil Nadu	98	Chennai	66	58	12.1
	99	Madurai	72	61	15.3
	100	Trichy	88	57	35.2
	101	Tuticorin	123	56	54.5
Telangana	102	Hyderabad	110	81	26.4
	103	Nalgonda	59	78	-32.2
	104	Sangareddy	85	86	-1.2
Uttar Pradesh	105	Agra	202	103	49.0
	106	Allahabad	169	99	41.4
	107	Ghaziabad	285	154	46.0
	108	Kanpur	227	102	55.1
	109	Lucknow	253	142	43.9
	110	Meerut	159	133	16.4
	111	Varanasi	230	59	74.3

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	112	Anpara	175	155	11.4
	113	Bareily	207	48	76.8
	114	Firozabad	247	100	59.5
	115	Gajraula	204	148	27.5
	116	Gorakhpur	150	105	30.0
	117	Jhansi	109	60	45.0
	118	Khurja	195	159	18.5
	119	Moradabad	222	96	56.8
	120	Noida	229	149	34.9
	121	Raebareli	145	79	45.5
Uttarakhand	122	Dehradun	250	107	57.2
	123	Kashipur	99	93	6.1
	124	Rishikesh	129	84	34.9
West Bengal	125	Asansol	147	131	10.9
	126	Barrackpore	86	92	-7.0
	127	Durgapur	150	149	0.7
	128	Haldia	92	81	12.0
	129	Howrah	139	92	33.8
	130	Kolkata	147	92	37.4