

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

**LOK SABHA**  
**UNSTARRED QUESTION No. 1180**  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 11.12.2023

**Air Pollution Hotspots**

1180. SHRI ABDUL KHALEQUE:

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

- (a) whether the Government has taken any initiative to collaborate and coordinate with State Governments in identifying air pollution hotspots;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor;
- (c) the details of the strategies and initiatives in place to address local sources of air pollution in the identified hotspot areas;
- (d) whether the Government has tailored programs to engage local communities and industries in the mitigation process; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

**ANSWER**

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE  
(SHRI ASHWINI KUMAR CHOUBEY)

(a) to (e):

National Clean Air Programme (NCAP) has been launched in January, 2019 which is a long-term, time-bound national level strategy for prevention, control and abatement of air pollution. Under NCAP, it has been envisaged to achieve targets of 20 to 30% reduction in Particulate Matter concentrations by 2024 in 131 cities of 24 States/UTs with respect to base year 2017. Subsequently, the target has been revised to achieve up to 40% reduction or achieve National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS) in terms PM concentrations by 2025-26.

Under NCAP, Cities/ULBs are required to identify Air Pollution Hotspots within the city and prepare an Emergency Response Plans as part of City Action Plan for taking measures to improve air quality. City level action plans have been prepared in 131 cities. These hotspots have been identified by 117 cities for addressing local sources of air pollution.

An amount of ₹ 9,631 Cr (as on Nov, 2023) has been released to 131 cities (24 States/UTs) under National Clean Air Program (NCAP) for the period FY 2019-20 to 2023-24 which includes XVFC air quality performance grant to Million Plus Cities/Urban Agglomerations, for taking air quality improvement measures.

Further, NCAP emphasises mobilisation of resources through convergence and implementation of various Central Schemes such as Swachh Bharat Mission (SBM 2.0), Smart City Mission,

AMRUT, PM E-bus Sewa Scheme (Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs), Vehicle Scrapping Policy (Ministry of Road Transport and Highways), Ujjwala, SATAT (Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas), FAME II (Ministry of Heavy Industries) and Nagar Van Yojana (MoEFCC) to improve air quality and address local sources of air pollution.

Implementation of these programmes involve engagement of local communities in participation in pollution control activities and awareness programmes. Further, Public Grievance Redressal Portal (PGRP)/helpline and Emergency Response System (ERS) have been developed in 131 cities to address air pollution incidents reported by citizens and communities.

MoEFCC issued guidelines for engagement of Institutes of Repute (IoRs) for providing technical assistance for ULB in identification and monitoring of air pollution hotspots and monitor the implementation of City Action Plan. Further, ULBs have engaged several institutes having expertise in air quality management to carry out Source Apportionment Studies for identification of local sources of pollution.

Ministry has issued Guidelines for Capacity Building and Public Outreach (CBPO) under NCAP for organising awareness programmes by SPCB/PCC and ULB/Cities for providing awareness to control air pollution. An amount Rs.1 crore has been provided to States/UTs for organising CBPO under NCAP in FY 2022-23.

Further, for participation of communities in addressing air pollution, all ULBs/Cities have been mandated to include awareness campaigns/ actions leading to behavioural changes as part of Mission LiFE (Lifestyle For Environment) to create awareness and facilitate citizens to take initiatives to protect the Environment including addressing air pollution linked to respective City Action Plans . NCAP focuses on multi-sectoral sources of pollution including power plants, industries, vehicles, open burning of waste, construction & demolition activities, etc.

To address air pollution from industries, Ministry has notified standards for emissions and discharge of pollutants including industries under Environment Protection Rules, 1986. Industry specific standards have been notified for 80 industrial sectors. SPCBs and PCCs in States and Union Territories, respectively have been mandated to ensure the compliance of these standards. Industrial Pollution is also regulated through Consent to Establish/ Consent to Operate issued and monitored by the concerned State Pollution Control Boards/ Pollution Control Committees (SPCBs/PCCs).

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