

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF LAW & JUSTICE  
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE**

**LOK SABHA**

**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 3383**

**TO BE ANSWERED ON FRIDAY, THE 05<sup>TH</sup> AUGUST, 2022**

**SPECIAL ENVIRONMENT COURTS**

**3383. SHRI MANNE SRINIVAS REDDY:**

**Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:**

- (a) whether any demands/recommendations rests with certain High Court regarding establishment of Special Environmental Courts for ensuring speedy trial of the cases involving violation of environmental laws and if so, the details thereof; and**
- (b) whether serious concern has been raised by certain courts over the degrading environment, despite presence of rules and laws, the ground situation is not improving in some States, if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor along with the corrective steps suggested to be taken by the concerned stakeholders?**

**ANSWER**

**MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE**

**(SHRI KIREN RIJJU)**

**(a):** The High Court of Punjab and Haryana has informed that the Government of Haryana notified two Special Environment Courts at Faridabad and Kurukshetra on 24.11.2015. They have also informed that as regards Chandigarh, all the cases pertaining

to Environmental matters transferred to one court of Judicial Magistrate First Class, Chandigarh.

The High Courts of Allahabad, Rajasthan and Karnataka have informed that they have received request for implementation of recommendation given in the “Advisory to Prevent Minimize and Mitigate Impacts of Environment Pollution and Degradation on Human Rights” from National Human Rights Commission.

The High Courts of Jammu and Kashmir, Bombay, Chhattisgarh, Calcutta, Himachal Pradesh, Manipur, Madras, Madhya Pradesh, Patna and Uttarakhand have informed that no demands/recommendations vest with these High Courts regarding establishment of Special Environmental Courts for ensuring speedy trial of the cases involving violation of environmental laws.

**(b):** The Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change has informed that the Hon’ble Supreme Court vide its order dated 15.11.2021 in WP(C)1135/2020 titled as Aditya Dube & Anrs and UOI & other directed for taking effective steps to control air pollution in NCR especially due to construction activities, industries, transport, thermal power plant etc. and also for considering ‘Work from Home’ by Central Government and State Governments/GNCTD for their offices in NCR and reviewing the status of action taken through periodical hearing of the matter. In compliance of the order dated 13.01.2020 of the Hon’ble Supreme Court in Writ Petition (Civil) 13029/1985 M.C. Mehta vs Union of India & Ors., two experimental pilot projects of smog towers, one at Anand Vihar and another at Connaught Place have been commissioned by Central Government on 31st August, 2021 and by Delhi Government on 1st October, 2021 respectively.

The following measures taken by the Government for Air Quality Management :-

#### Vehicular Emission

- Leapfrogging from BS-IV to BS-VI fuel standards since 1st April, 2018 in NCT

of Delhi and from 1st April, 2020 for the rest of the country.

- Introduction of BS VI compliant vehicles across the country since April, 2020.
- Development of Expressways and Highways to reduce fuel consumption and pollution.
- Eastern Peripheral Expressway & Western Peripheral Expressway have been operationalized to divert non destined traffic from Delhi.
- Environment Protection Charges (EPC) have been imposed on diesel vehicles with engine capacity of 2000cc and above in Delhi NCR.
- Introduction of cleaner/alternate fuels like CNG, LPG, ethanol blending in petrol.
- Promotion of public transport and improvements in roads and building of more bridges to ease congestion on roads.
- Network of metro rails for public transport are enhanced and more cities are covered.
- Ban on 10-year-old diesel vehicles and 15-year-old vehicles in Delhi NCR.
- Faster Adoption and Manufacturing of Electric Vehicles (FAME) -2 schemes 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.

### Industrial Emission

- Ban on use of petcoke and furnace oil in NCR, use of petcoke in processes in cement plants, lime kilns and calcium carbide manufacturing units.
- Stringent emission norms for Coal based Thermal Power Plants (TPPs).
- Shifting of industrial units to PNG/cleaner fuel in Delhi
- Installation of online continuous emission monitoring devices in highly polluting industries.
- Shifting of brick kilns in Delhi-NCR to zigzag technology for reduction of pollution

### Air Pollution due to Dust and Burning of Waste

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

### Monitoring of Ambient Air Quality

- Expansion of air quality monitoring network of manual as well as continuous monitoring stations under programme such as National Air Monitoring Programme
- Initiation of pilot projects to assess alternate ambient monitoring technologies such as low-cost sensors and satellite-based monitoring.

### Monitoring the Implementation of NCAP

- Government has launched NCAP as a national level as a national-level strategy outlining the actions for reducing the level of air pollution at city and regional scales in India. City specific air action plans have been rolled out for implementation in 132 NACs and MPCs
- Rs. 472.06 crore have been sanctioned to 82 non-attainment cities under NCAP to provide support for critical gap funding. The funds are disbursed based upon the performance of the cities as per the NCAP operational guidelines.
- Further, 15th Finance Commission (XV-FC) has provided a special grant of Rs 4,400 crore to 42 million plus cities/urban agglomerations which covers 50 Non-Attainment Cities for FY 2020-21.
- The performance based incentive grant of Rs. 12.139 crore for FY 2020-21 to 2025-26 have been allocated for improvement in air quality of 42 million plus cities/urban agglomerations under Million-Plus Cities Challenge Fund (MPCCF). MoEF&CC is the nodal agency for monitoring ambient air quality and recommending DoE for disbursing grants to 42 Million—plus cities.
- For FY 2021-22 for 42 MPCs, Rs 2025 Cr have been released by DoE to 42 cities/UAs on the

basis of their performance assessment made by MoEF&CC.

- City specific action plans are regularly monitored by committees at Central; Apex, Steering, Monitoring and implementation committee; at State; Steering, implementation committee and at City level Implementation and Monitoring Committee.
- Implementation of Air Quality Early Warning System for Delhi, Kanpur and Lucknow. The system provides alerts for taking timely actions.
- Public Complaints regarding air pollution issues in Delhi NCR are taken through 'Sameer App', 'Emails' (Aircomplaints.cpcb@gov.in) and 'Social Media Networks' (Facebook and Twitter).
- PRANA a portal for monitoring implementation of NCA has been launched.

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