

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

LOK SABHA
STARRED QUESTION NO. 159
TO BE ANSWERED ON 13.02.2023

Performance based Grants

*159. DR. (PROF.) KIRIT PREMJI BHAI SOLANKI:

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

- (a) whether there is a mechanism set up to recommend performance-based grants to all 42 Million Plus Cities (MPCs);
- (b) whether the same mechanism is applicable for monitoring other 90 Non-Attainment cities under the National Clean Air Programme (NCAP); and
- (c) the details of the parameters and performance metrics, determining the release of the Ambient Air Quality Grant to Million Plus Cities (MPCs) for the Financial Year 2021-22?

ANSWER

MINISTER FOR ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE
(SHRI BHUPENDER YADAV)

- (a) to (c) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY OF PARA (a) TO (c) OF STARRED QUESTION NO. 159 TO BE ANSWERED ON 13.02.2023 IN LOK SABHA RAISED BY DR. (PROF.) KIRIT PREMJBHAI SOLANKI TITLED “PERFORMANCE BASED GRANTS”

(a), (b) & (c): Fifteenth Finance Committee has recommended Million-Plus Cities Challenge Fund (MCF) of Rs. 12,139 crores to 42 Million Plus Cities /Urban Agglomerations for FY 2021-22 to 2025-26 as a performance based Ambient Air Quality grant to take measures to improve air quality in respective cities. Department of Expenditure has issued operational guidelines vide dated 10.08.2021 for implementation of the recommendations for release of MCF in 42 Million Plus cities/ Urban agglomerations.

Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC) acts as nodal ministry and recommends the release of MCF based on the performance of cities on air quality in consultation with Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoH&UA) and State Governments.

During financial year 2021-22, release of ambient air quality grants to Million plus Cities (MPCs)/Urban Agglomerations was on the basis of following parameters:

- i. Strengthening of the pollution monitoring mechanisms;
- ii. Source-wise cause analysis for air pollution;
- iii. Progress on action plans and compliance of statutory guidelines;
- iv. Quantification of air quality improvement with the weights

Details of above mentioned parameters and relative weightage for assessment of performance of cities for FY 2021-22 are enclosed at **Annexure I**.

For 82 non-attainment cities not covered under XVth Finance Commission grant, Operational guidelines for release and utilization of funds under NCAP for 82 non-attainment cities have been issued by Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change.

Annexure – I

Details of parameters for City Performance Assessment for Air Quality grant to Million Plus Cities/Urban Agglomerations

Year-wise weightage for City Performance Assessment is as under:

Sr. No.	Parameter 2021	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25	2025-26
A	Strengthening of the pollution monitoring mechanisms	10	-	-	-	-
B	Source-wise cause analysis for air pollution	10	-	-	-	-
C	Progress on action plans and compliance of statutory guidelines	10	-	-	-	-
D	Quantification of air quality improvement with the weights	70	100	100	100	100
Total		100	100	100	100	100

A. Strengthening of the pollution monitoring mechanisms:

- a. Operationalization of Air Quality Monitoring Cell (AQMC)
- b. IT-Enabled air quality data management Systems
- c. Co-ordination committee reviews including progress and review of City Action Plans including public grievances redressal portal, emergency response and awareness program.

B. Source-wise cause analysis for air pollution:

- a. Air Quality profiling to identify suitable locations for AQ monitoring station including hotspots.
- b. Source Apportionments Study and establishment of robust emission Inventory system.
- c. Development of IT-based Emission Tracking System

C. Progress on action plans and compliance of statutory guidelines:

- a. Implementation and updation of City Action Plans
- b. Monitoring of PUC for vehicles
- c. Infrastructure planning and set up of (CAAQMS/ Manual AQMs)

D. Quantification of air quality improvement with the weights:

Quantification of improvement in air quality has two parts, namely, reduction in particulate matter (PM10) and increase in the good days according to improvement in the air quality index (AQI) from the base year 2019-20. The performance of the 42 Million-Plus City/agglomeration (Cities/UAs) was assessed at various levels and funds awarded based on the parameters fixed by the 15th Finance Commission in Annexure 7.8, 7.8 A and 7.8 B of Chapter -7, Volume-II of the Final Report.

Evaluation under above mentioned parameter D and performance metrics used for determining the release of the ambient air quality grants to Million Plus Cities (MPCs) for the

Financial Years 2021-2022 are as under:

i. Reduction in air pollution levels (particulate matter)

Table A-PM₁₀ Annual Average Concentration		
S.No.	Reduction(%) in annual average concentration	Improvement
1	15 and above	High
2	<15	Low

ii. Frequency of exceedance in AQI levels:

The number of days exceeding AQI (Moderate - 200) out of total number of normal days monitored per year would be graded as under:

Table B-Good days (AQI<200)		
S.No.	Increase in Good days(%)	Improvement
1	15 and above	High
2	<15	Low

Based on grading in Table 'A' and Table 'B' above, the combined performance factor for Air Quality Management would be graded and evaluated for the cities/ UAs as per following procedure:

S.No.	Reduction (%) in annual average concentration (from Table A)	Increase in Good days(%) (from Table B)	Performance Factor or Score of City (S)
1	High	High	100
2	Low	High	75
3	High	Low	50
4	Low	Low	25

Based on the performance, Million Plus Challenge Fund (MCF) for ambient air quality is to be released as single instalment in each year during the award period in the proportion as given below:

Table-Fund Allocation to Cities (Performance based)	
Score of the city, S	Percentage of Fund allocation from 2021-22 onwards
80-100	100
60-80	75
50-60	50
40-50	25
Below 40	NIL
