

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

**LOK SABHA**  
**UNSTARRED QUESTION No. 1689**  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 31.07.2023

**Air Pollution**

1689. SHRI VIJAY KUMAR HANSDAK:  
SHRI SUNIL KUMAR SONI:

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

- (a) whether the Government has undertaken any study to assess the impact of air pollution, particularly on occupationally exposed outdoor worker groups and if so, the details thereof;
- (b) whether the Government has any plan to enact laws for protecting such groups from air pollution who are more vulnerable because of their occupation in Tribal populated region particularly in Jharkhand and if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the manner in which a city is classified under Central Scheme in view of air pollution;
- (d) the name of the cities of Chhattisgarh approved by the Central Pollution Control Board for improvement in air quality; and
- (e) the funds sanctioned for the action plan of the cities of Chhattisgarh for the financial years 2021-22 and 2022-23 as per the recommendation of the Fifteenth Finance Commission along with the norms determined to spend the sanctioned amount?

**ANSWER**

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

(SHRI ASHWINI KUMAR CHOUBEY)

(a) & (b)

The central Pollution Control Board has assessed in the past impact of air pollution on occupationally exposed workers, staff associated with Solid waste management and ragpickers. It was observed that they were more vulnerable to adverse health impacts of air pollution and diseases like respiratory impairments, pneumonitis, gastrointestinal were prevalent among them. They also had increased risk of higher levels of heavy metals like chromium, lead and mercury in their bodies, with compromised lung functions.

To protect such groups from air pollution, being vulnerable because of their occupation, Government has notified the Solid Waste Management Rules, 2016, under which the Local Authorities and Village Panchayats of census town and Urban Agglomeration's are required to establish a system to recognise organisations of waste pickers or informal waste collectors. Local bodies are also required to promote and establish a system for integration of these waste pickers and waste collectors to facilitate their participation in solid waste management including door to door collection of waste. Also the local authorities and Panchayats shall ensure that the operator of a facility provides personal protection equipment including uniform,

fluorescent jacket, hand gloves, raincoats, appropriate foot wear and masks to all workers handling solid waste and the same are used by the workforce.

(c) to (e)

123 Non-attainment cities where air quality in terms of PM10 concentrations exceeding the National Ambient Air Quality Standards for five consecutive years have been identified under the National Clean Air Programme (NCAP). Further, 42 Million plus cities funded under XVth Finance Commission air quality performance grant have been included in the above programme. Total 131 of cities (89 Non-attainment cities; 34 Non-attainment & Million plus cities and 8 Million plus cities) have been included under the programme for improvement of air quality.

Three cities of Chhattisgarh, namely Raipur, Durg-bhilai and Korba have been covered under NCAP out of which Raipur and Durg-bhilai are funded under XVth Finance Commission air quality performance grant, and Korba is funded by the Ministry for taking measures to improve air quality. Details of funds released to the cities of Chhattisgarh under XVth Finance Commission during FY 2021-22 and 2022-23 is annexed as Annexure-I.

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**Annexure-I**

Sl No.	State	Sl No.	City	Fund Sanctioned/Received/ Released during the Year (Amount in crore)		
				FY 21-22	FY 22-23	Total
				4	6	
1	Chhattisgarh	1	Raipur	35.35	29.00	64.35
		2	Bhilai	33.35	27.00	60.35
Total				68.70	56.00	124.70