

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

LOK SABHA
UN-STARRED QUESTION NO.4171
TO BE ANSWERED ON 13.12.2019

Funds Allocated for Combating Air Pollution

4171. COL. RAJYAVARDHAN RATHORE:

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

- (a) whether any fund has been allocated during the last three years to combat air pollution in northern India, especially Delhi, Punjab, Haryana and Uttar Pradesh;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the purpose for which the aforementioned allocated money has been spent over the past three years;
- (d) the details of the status and outcome of such projects on which the said money was spent on; and
- (e) the number and duration of time period where there is increase in air pollution in northern India due to stubble burning?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE
(SHRI BABUL SUPRIYO)

- (a) to (c) The Central Government launched National Clean Air Programme (NCAP) as a long-term, time-bound, national level strategy to tackle the air pollution problem across the country in a comprehensive manner with targets to achieve 20 % to 30 % reduction in PM₁₀ and PM_{2.5} concentrations by 2024 keeping 2017 as the base year for the comparison of concentration. Under NCAP, 102 non-attainment cities have been identified based on ambient air quality data for the period 2011 – 2015 and WHO report 2014/2018, which includes cities from Punjab, Haryana and Uttar Pradesh.

For the cities with million plus population and PM₁₀>90µg/m³, MoEF&CC has earmarked ₹10 Crores in the current year for various components that inter-alia includes Installation and commissioning of CAAQMS, Creating green buffer zone along the roads, Mechanical street sweeper, Mobile Enforcement Unit, Public awareness and capacity building activities, Water sprinkler. For the cities with population, less than 5 lakhs, funds of ₹10 lakhs per city has been allocated and for cities with a population of 5 to 10 lakhs, ₹20 lakhs per city has been allocated. Further, in order to prevent the stubble burning, a new Central Sector Scheme on 'Promotion of Agricultural Mechanization for In-Situ Management of Crop Residue in the States of Punjab, Haryana, Uttar Pradesh and NCT of Delhi' for the period from 2018-19 to 2019-20 is being implemented by Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare with the total release from the Central

funds of Rs. 1151.80 crore (Rs. 591.65 crore in 2018-19 and Rs. 560.15 crore in 2019-20).

- (d) Due to roll out of Scheme on 'Promotion of Agricultural Mechanization for In-Situ Management of Crop Residue, the total number of stubble burning events in the States Punjab, Haryana and UP have been reduced from 292285 in 2016 to 61332 in 2019.
- (e) As per the report of Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology (IITM), Pune, Ministry of Earth Sciences, during winter season stubble burning in Northern States adds to spike in air pollution resulting from local contribution and unique meteorological conditions in Delhi and NCR. Contribution of Stubble burning in PM_{2.5} levels in Delhi has been reported by System of Air Quality & Weather Forecasting & Research (SAFAR)-FORECASTING MODEL developed by IITM. As per SAFAR MODEL, estimated impact of stubble burning in PM_{2.5} level in Delhi ranged between 2% (7th November, 2019) to 46% (31st October, 2019).
