

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION No. 472
TO BE ANSWERED ON 24.07.2023

Continuous Ambient Air Quality Monitoring Systems

472. SHRI P.V. MIDHUN REDDY:
SHRI LAVU SRI KRISHNA DEVARAYALU:
SHRIMATI SUNITA DUGGAL:
DR. T. SUMATHY (a) THAMIZHACHI THANGAPANDIAN:

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

- (a) the reasons behind the withdrawal of central funds to the State Governments for the procurement of Continuous Ambient Air Quality Monitoring Systems (CAAQMS) under the National Clean Air Programme (NCAP);
- (b) whether the Government plans to deploy indigenously developed monitoring devices to determine the Air Quality Index (AQI) in order to make real-time air pollution control decisions;
- (c) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor;
- (d) whether the Government has set up institutions to certify indigenous monitoring devices, but not limited to low-cost sensors in order to expand real-time monitoring of all criteria pollutants as well as to fill the gaps in existing data; 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):

Funds under National Clean Air Programme (NCAP) are provided to non-attainment cities for taking measures to improve air quality as per the City Action Plan prepared by City Level Implementation Committee and approved by Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB).

Funds are separately provided to State Pollution Control Board/Pollution Control Committees for establishment of Ambient Air Quality Monitoring Stations (AQMS) on need basis under the component of National Air Quality Monitoring Programme (NAMPP) of Central Sector Scheme 'Control of pollution'.

Further, SPCBs/PCCs can also establish AQMS through their own resources for monitoring of air quality.

Council of Scientific and Industrial Research - National Physical Laboratory (CSIR-NPL) has been designated vide Notification S.O.3023(E) dated 22.08.2019 as a national verification agency for certifying instruments and equipment for monitoring emissions and ambient air. CSIR-NPL has been mandated to develop necessary infrastructure, management system, testing and certification facilities conforming to international standards like ISO 17605 and ISO 17025 for both manual samplers and Continuous Ambient Air Quality Monitoring Stations (CAQMS) in addition to Continuous Emission Monitoring Systems (CEMS).

Expert Working Groups have been formed for preparation of specifications, performance criteria, laboratory calibration, field tuning protocols for Low Cost Sensor (LCS) Devices.
