

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE**

**RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2332
TO BE ANSWERED ON 21.03.2023**

PREVALENCE OF HEAT STROKES

2332. SHRI AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH:

Will the Minister of **HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE** be pleased to state:

- (a) the region-wise details regarding the deaths caused by the ongoing heatwave in the country;
- (b) whether Government has made any effort to improve health infrastructure and awareness in regions prone to the heatwave;
- (c) if so, the details thereof;
- (d) if not, the reasons therefor; and
- (e) the steps taken to improve health-related awareness during the last five years?

**ANSWER
THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND
FAMILY WELFARE
(DR. BHARATI PRAVIN PAWAR)**

(a) to (e):

As per data reported by States/UTs, 33 deaths were reported due to heat related illness in the year 2022. For the year 2023, no deaths due to heat related illness has been reported.

To ensure adequate infrastructure at district level, Government of India provides financial assistance to all States/UTs under National Health Mission for strengthening public health care systems including setting up new hospitals and infrastructure upgradation under various schemes. Government of India has released Rs 28939.62 Cr, 29455.72 Cr and Rs 28033.62 Cr in financial year 2019-20, 2020-2021 and 2021-2022 respectively under National Health Mission. Further to strengthen Public health infrastructure Rs 584.04 Cr. has been released in 2021-22 and for the financial year 2022-23, Rs 4,176.84 Cr. has been allocated under PM-ABHIM.

MoHFW has launched National Program on Climate Change and Human Health (NPCCHH) at National Centre for disease Control (NCDC), with an objective to create awareness, capacity building, health sector preparedness and response on the climate

sensitive health issues in the country since 2019. Now the Programme has expanded in all the State/UTs and activities are conducted in the form of training on Climate Sensitive Diseases, Surveillance on Acute Respiratory Illnesses and Heat related Illnesses, generation & dissemination of IEC on Air Pollution & Heat and its health impacts on health.

Union Health Ministry has taken several steps to ensure wider awareness in Public, stakeholder, health workers and state governments which also includes:

- National Action plan on Heat related illness has been released in 2021. This document provides guidance to manage severe heat-related illnesses and to report them under National Heat Related Illness surveillance.
- Multiple advisories on health sector preparedness, including do's and don'ts are also shared with States. States are further advised to prepare their state-level heat health sector plan with focus on awareness building, health system capacity upgradation and strengthening of health infrastructure to treat heat related illness and reduce related deaths.
- The State Officials has been advised to disseminate messages to increase general awareness through various IEC activities and conduct sensitization workshops on heat's health impact and its prevention.
- To strengthen the public healthcare system, NPCCHH conducts capacity building trainings/workshops of State/District level programme officers, health care professionals and health workers on tracking and managing of heat-related health issues. India Meteorological Department (IMD) issues heatwave alerts (early warning), these are further shared with State Nodal Officers-Climate Change to ensure health facility preparedness.
- Regular communication has been sent to all states to ensure preparedness capacity building of health care workforce, digital heat related surveillance, awareness activities for general awareness and implement heat –health action plans.
