

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF EARTH SCIENCES
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1952
ANSWERED ON 08/08/2024

ADDRESSING BRUTAL WEATHER CONDITIONS

1952. SHRI SANJEEV ARORA:

Will the Minister of EARTH SCIENCES be pleased to state:

the steps taken by Government to address brutal weather conditions which forces schools to close in several cities and raises the risk of heatstroke for people working outdoors?

ANSWER
THE MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) FOR
MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY
AND EARTH SCIENCES
(DR. JITENDRA SINGH)

The India Meteorological Department (IMD), in collaboration with the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA), State Governments, and the local health departments, has started Heat Action Plans (HAPs) in many parts of the country to forewarn about the heatwaves.

Heat Action Plans in 23 States prone to heatwave conditions jointly implemented by the NDMA and the concerned State Governments for immediate and longer-term actions to increase preparedness, information-sharing, and response coordination to reduce the health impacts of extreme heat on vulnerable populations, including people working outdoors.

In addition, IMD has taken various steps to improve monitoring, forecasting, and early warning systems, which have helped minimize loss of life and property during extreme weather events, including heatwave conditions. These include:

- i. Issuing seasonal and monthly outlooks, followed by extended-range forecasts of temperature and heatwave conditions. The forecasts and early warnings are also disseminated through social media for timely public outreach.
- ii. District-wise heatwave vulnerability Atlas over India to help State Government authorities and disaster management agencies in planning
- iii. The hot weather hazard analysis map over India includes daily temperature, winds, and humidity conditions.
- iv. A series of National and State-level heatwave preparedness meetings are conducted much before the start of the summer season, with regular review meetings from time to time during the season.
