

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

**RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 927
TO BE ANSWERED ON 30.07.2024**

DEATHS DUE TO PM 2.5 POLLUTION

927. SHRI JAWHAR SIRCAR:

Will the **Minister of Health and Family Welfare** be pleased to state:-

- (a) whether the recent study by Lancet has revealed that pollution, mainly PM2.5, spewed from vehicles and industries, is responsible for over 7 per cent of daily deaths in 10 major Indian cities;
- (b) whether it is a fact that Delhi is the the most polluted city with 11.5 per cent deaths from this;
- (c) the special steps being taken by Government to reduce PM 2.5 levels to the limits set by the WHO; and
- (d) the details of the other plans to reduce pollution-related health problems?

ANSWER

**THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH & FAMILY
WELFARE
(SMT. ANUPRIYA PATEL)**

(a) to (d): There are no conclusive data available in the country to establish direct correlation of death/disease exclusively due to air pollution. Air pollution is one of the triggering factors for respiratory ailments and associated diseases. Health effects of air pollution are synergistic manifestation of factors which include food habits, occupational habits, socioeconomic status, medical history, immunity, heredity etc. of the individuals. The yearwise and citywise air quality status including Delhi can be accessed at the link <https://cpcb.nic.in/manual-monitoring/>.

Government of India has taken several steps to address air pollution issues. These include:

- i. Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana (PMUY) aims to safeguard the health of women & children by providing them with a clean cooking fuel Liquid Petroleum Gas (LPG).
- ii. Swachh Bharat Mission to clean up streets, roads and infrastructure of India's cities, smaller towns, and rural areas. Swachh Hawa is an integral component of Swachh Bharat.
- iii. Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change has launched National Clean Air program in 2019 as a national level strategy to reduce air pollution levels across the country.
- iv. MOHFW has launched National Program on Climate Change and Human Health (NPCCHH) at National Centre for Disease Control (NCDC), with objective to create awareness, capacity building, health sector preparedness and response and partnerships related activities 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 Information, Education and Communication (IEC) on Air Pollution & Heat and its health impacts on health which include children. Further, guidelines on 'Air Pollution and its Impact on Children's Health' have been developed in both Hindi and English under National Programme on Climate Change and Human Health in 2020 and shared with States for implementation.

- v. NCDC under Ministry of Health & Family Welfare issues health advisory every year to the States/UTs to address health concern of the masses including that of children. Several workshops and trainings have been conducted for community level health workers on air pollution and its health impact on children's health.
