

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

**RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 274
TO BE ANSWERED ON 02ND DECEMBER, 2025**

CORRELATION BETWEEN AIR POLLUTION AND RESPIRATORY DISEASES

274. DR. VIKRAMJIT SINGH SAHNEY:

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

- (a) whether the Ministry has studied the correlation between rising air pollution and respiratory diseases in urban areas;
- (b) if so, the details thereof, if not the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether there is an increase in outpatient and hospital admissions due to asthma, Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease (COPD), and lung infections in metro cities especially Delhi from 2022-2025; and
- (d) whether the Ministry is planning to do some policy intervention to know about the role of air pollution in various respiratory diseases?

ANSWER

**THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE
(SHRI PRATAPRAO JADHAV)**

(a) to (d): 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, socio-economic status, medical history, immunity, heredity, etc.

National Centre for Disease Control (NCDC) conducts sentinel surveillance of Air Pollution related illnesses through the network of more than 230 sentinel surveillance sites spanning across 30 States/UTs. Acute Respiratory Infection (ARI) digital surveillance was started in August 2023 through Integrated Health Information Portal (IHIP). ARI surveillance data of 6 Sentinel Sites of Delhi, 2 Sentinel Sites of Chennai and 1 Sentinel Site of Mumbai is at annexure I.

Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) has informed that it has conducted a multisite study to document acute effect of increase in air pollution on respiratory morbidity. It was conducted at 5 sites. A total 33,213 (12.6%) of total Emergency Room patients were eligible and were enrolled with complete data collection. Analysis suggests that increase in pollution levels was associated with increase in number of patients attending emergency rooms. However, this

study design cannot provide confirmation that the association is causal.

Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Government of India issues Health Advisory on Air Pollution to all States/UTs every year to support them on preparedness for such health problems at all levels of health care facilities across the country. The same can be accessed in following link for the 2025 is advisory:

https://ncdc.mohfw.gov.in/wp-content/uploads/2025/04/Updated-Draft-Health-Advisory-on-Air-Pollution-under-NPCCHH_latest-version_15-04-2025.pdf

Health sector preparedness and response mechanisms on air pollution and health related issues such as Air Quality Index (AQI) reports are shared with States for preparedness and response mechanisms.

ANNEXURE-I

ANNEXURE REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PART (a) to (d) OF THE RAJYA SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 274 FOR 02.12.2025 REGARDING CORRELATION BETWEEN AIR POLLUTION AND RESPIRATORY DISEASES

1. Cases of Acute Respiratory Illnesses Reporting to Emergency Departments of 6 Central Government Hospitals of Delhi (AIIMS/ Safdarjung Hospital/ LHMC Group of Hospitals/ RML Hospital/ NITRD Hospital/ VPCI Hospital)

Year	Number of Acute Respiratory Illness (ARI) cases reported to Emergency Department	Number of Cases of Respiratory Illnesses requiring Hospital Admission
2022	67054	9878
2023	69293	9727
2024	68411	10819

2. Data of ARI sentinel surveillance from **Rajiv Gandhi Hospital and Stanly Medical College, Chennai** for 2023 and 2024 through IHIP portal:

Year	Number of Acute Respiratory Illness cases reported to ED(ARI)	Number of Cases of Respiratory Illnesses requiring Hospital Admission (Admin)
2023*	1647	563
2024	1502	324

3. Data of ARI sentinel surveillance from JJ Hospital, **Mumbai** for 2023 and 2024 through IHIP portal:

Year	Number of Acute Respiratory Illness cases reported to ED(ARI)	Number of Cases of Respiratory Illnesses requiring Hospital Admission (Admin)
2023*	921	31
2024	1969	474

*Data from the month of September 2023