

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

**RAJYA SABHA  
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1208  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 10<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY, 2026**

**SURGE IN RESPIRATORY MEDICINE SALES AND PUBLIC HEALTH IMPACT  
OF AIR POLLUTION**

**1208 Ms. SUSHMITA DEV:**

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

- (a) whether Government has taken note of reports indicating a record surge in sales of respiratory medicines, crossing ₹1,950 crore in December 2025, with sustained year-on year increases during high-pollution months;
- (b) whether Government acknowledges that such sharp increases in sales of anti-asthma, Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease (COPD) and allergy medications reflect a worsening air-pollution-linked public health burden rather than mere seasonal illness;
- (c) whether any official study or epidemiological assessment has been conducted to establish a direct correlation between air pollution levels and rising respiratory morbidity and deaths; and
- (d) the number of pollution-related respiratory illnesses and deaths reported annually during the last five years, State-wise?

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

(a) to (d): As informed by the Department of Pharmaceuticals, based on the market data available with the National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA) through the Pharmarack database, the sales values of medicines (both scheduled and non-scheduled formulations) pertaining to the therapeutic category “Respiratory System” for the month of December 2025 is ₹ 1952.92 crore. And the year on year sales value is as follows:

Month	Total sales value in 2024 (₹ crore) (Calendar year)	Total sales value in 2025 (₹ crore) (Calendar year)
Total	17199.40	18912.64

*The sales value is based on Price-to-Retailer (PTR) as captured by Pharamarack.*

There is 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.

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.

The 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).

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