

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

**RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2844
TO BE ANSWERED ON 17.03.2026**

AIR POLLUTION RISK TO CHILD HEALTH

2844. DR. FAUZIA KHAN:

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

- (a) whether the Ministry is aware that sustained high levels of air pollution across most of India pose a silent national health crisis, with long-term risks to child health;
- (b) if so, whether the Ministry plans to launch targeted preventive programmes, advisory systems and awareness campaigns to minimize children's exposure to hazardous air and to strengthen surveillance on pollution-related morbidities; and
- (c) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

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

- (a): Air pollution is one of the factors affecting respiratory ailments and associated diseases. Health is impacted by several factors, including food habits, occupational habits, socio- economic status, medical history, immunity, heredity, etc., of the individuals including children apart from the environment.
- (b) & (c): Government of India has taken several steps to address air pollution issues which are placed at **Annexure**.

ANNEXURE

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

1. Implementation of National Programme for Climate Change and Human Health (NPCCHH) with an 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. The details of the programme are as below:

i. Under NPCCHH, the Government of India has developed "Health Adaptation Plan" on health issues due to Air Pollution.

ii. It has also developed "State Action Plan" on climate change & human health for all 36 State/UTs. This State specific Action Plan contains dedicated chapter on air pollution which suggests interventions to reduce the impact.

iii. Ministry of Health & Family Welfare issues public health advisories to State/UTs suggesting ways to reduce the impact of air pollution.

iv. Nationwide public awareness campaigns are organized in coordination with States annually for World Environment Day (5th June), International Day of Clean Air for blue skies (7th September) and National Pollution Control Day (2nd December).

v. Dedicated training modules have been developed in area of air pollution for Programme Managers, Medical Officers & Nurses, Nodal Officers sentinel sites, frontline workers like Accredited Social Health Activist (ASHA), vulnerable groups like women & children, occupationally exposed groups like traffic police, municipal workers etc.

vi. Information Education communication (IEC) material has been developed targeting air pollution related illnesses in both English, Hindi and regional languages. Government of India has also developed customized IEC materials focusing various vulnerable groups such as school children, women, occupational vulnerable groups like Municipality workers, etc.

vii. Series of national level capacity building workshops have been conducted annually to prepare Master Trainers (State level Trainers) who can cascade down the training at State/District level in the area of air pollution related illnesses and surveillance.

viii. Early warning system/alerts for air pollution as well as air quality forecasts are disseminated from Indian Meteorological Department to States and cities to prepare the health sector as well as community including vulnerable population.

2. 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).

3. Swachh Bharat Mission aims to clean up streets, roads and infrastructure of India's cities, smaller towns, and rural areas. Swachh Hava is an integral component of Swachh Bharat.

4. 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.