

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

**RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 435
ANSWERED ON 3RD FEBRUARY, 2026**

RESPIRATORY HEALTH CRISIS IN TIER 2 CITIES

435. SHRI ASHOK SINGH:

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

- (a) whether Government acknowledges that the respiratory health crisis is no longer limited to Delhi-NCR but has reached emergency levels in Tier-2 'Non-Attainment Cities', with District Hospitals reporting a massive surge in Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease (COPD) and Asthma cases in 2024-25;
- (b) the details of cases registered under NP-NCD during the last two years, specifically isolating the data for these high-pollution non-metro cities, State-wise; and
- (c) whether the Ministry has a specific roadmap to establish dedicated 'Respiratory Critical Care Units' (RCUs) in the District Hospitals of these 131 identified Non-Attainment Cities?

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

(a) to (c): As per Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC), Ministry has launched the National Clean Air Programme (NCAP) in 2019 with a long-term, time-bound, national strategy to address air pollution in 130 non-attainment and million plus cities/urban agglomeration in 24 States/Union Territories. City Specific Clean Air Action Plans have been prepared by all 130 cities under NCAP to implement air quality improvement measures in respective cities. These plans target air pollution sources like soil & road dust, vehicular emissions, waste burning, Construction & Demolition activities and industrial pollution.

Further, National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS) has been notified by Central Pollution Control Board for 12 pollutants in 2009 under the Environmental Protection Rules, 1986 to protect public health and environment from air pollution.

Health is a State subject. The Department of Health & Family Welfare, Government of India provides technical and financial support to the States and Union Territories under the National Programme for Prevention and Control of Non-Communicable Diseases (NP-NCD). Under NP-NCD, 770 District NCD Clinics, 6410 Community Health Center NCD Clinics and 233 Cardiac Care Units has been set up.
