

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

**LOK SABHA  
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.1279  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 28<sup>TH</sup> JUNE, 2019  
EFFECTS OF POLLUTION ON HEALTH**

**1279. SHRI ANIL FIROJIYA:**

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

- (a) whether the Government is aware that every fourth new baby in the country is born weak;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor; and
- (c) whether pollution is the reason behind increasing rush in hospital OPDs across the country, if so, the details thereof?

**ANSWER  
THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND  
FAMILY WELFARE  
(SHRI ASHWINI KUMAR CHOUBEY)**

(a) & (b): As per National Family Health survey IV (2015-16), 18.2 % Newborns were low birth weight, having less than 2.5 kg birth weight. The state wise low birth weight status is annexed.

Causes for low birth weight are extremes of maternal age (especially younger than 16 years of age or older than 40 years), repeated pregnancies, obstetric complications, chronic maternal conditions (eg. hypertensive disorders of pregnancy), infections (eg. malaria), and poor nutritional status. Other contributors include exposure to environmental factors, such as indoor air pollution, tobacco and drug use.

(c): There is no adequate evidence to indicate increasing rush in hospitals due to pollution.

Percentage of Newborns having weight less than 2.5 kg as per NFHS-IV (2015-16)		
S. No.	Name of State	Less than 2.5 Kg (Percentage)
	<b>INDIA</b>	<b>18.2</b>
1	Andaman & Nicobar	16.2
2	Andhra Pradesh	17.6
3	Arunachal Pradesh	10.7
4	Assam	15.8
5	Bihar	14.4
6	Chandigarh	22.2
7	Chhattisgarh	12.6
8	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	23.1
9	Daman & Diu	17.8
10	Delhi	26.6
11	Goa	22.3
12	Gujarat	19.0
13	Haryana	20.4
14	Himachal Pradesh	19.6
15	Jammu & Kashmir	14.0
16	Jharkhand	14.5
17	Karnataka	17.2
18	Kerala	15.5
19	Lakshadweep	18.4
20	Madhya Pradesh	21.9
21	Maharashtra	19.5
22	Manipur	9.1
23	Meghalaya	12.2
24	Mizoram	6.0
25	Nagaland	7.8
26	Odisha	20.8
27	Puducherry	15.9
28	Punjab	17.2
29	Rajasthan	21.4
30	Sikkim	8.4
31	Tamil Nadu	16.4
32	Telangana	15.9
33	Tripura	17.5
34	Uttar Pradesh	20.7
35	Uttarakhand	24.7
36	West Bengal	16.7

**Source:** National Family Health Survey Report, 2015-16