

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

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. - 482
TO BE ANSWERED ON 09.12.2022**

HEALTH OUTCOME OF AIR POLLUTION

482. SHRI PRADYUT BORDOLOI:

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

- (a) whether the Government is aware of the fact that monitoring of health outcomes/effects of air pollution are mainly confined to urban populations areas which overlooks the vast majority of Indians living in rural areas, if so, the details thereof;
- (b) whether the Government has assessed any particular socio-economic groups/areas, who/which, are/is more vulnerable to air pollution, if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to monitor such outcomes among vulnerable groups/areas apart from rural women who are exposed to burning of firewood and tribal communities involved in mining/industrial activities near their settlements; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

**ANSWER
THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND
FAMILY WELFARE
(DR. BHARATI PRAVIN PAWAR)**

(a) to (d): Ambient air quality monitoring network has been established by Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change under National Air Quality Monitoring Programme which has 1296 stations covering 473 cities in 28 States and 7 Union Territories including in rural areas.

Further, Central Pollution Control Board had also got conducted a study titled “Does air quality from crop residue burning in close proximity to residential areas adversely affect respiratory health?” through The Energy Research Institute. Under the study,

impact of poor air quality due to crop residue burning on the respiratory health of the population (in 6 villages) was assessed.

Further Government of India has taken several steps to address air pollution issues.

Such as:

- Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana (PMUY) aims to safeguard the health of women & children by providing them with a clean cooking fuel – LPG.
- Swachh Bharat Mission to clean up streets, roads and infrastructure of India's cities, smaller towns, and rural areas. SwachhHawa is an integral component of Swachh Bharat.
- Under Central Sector Scheme on 'Promotion of Agricultural Mechanization for in-situ management of Crop Residue in the States of Punjab, Haryana, Uttar Pradesh and NCT of Delhi', agricultural machines and equipment for in-situ crop residue management are promoted with 50% subsidy to the individual farmers and 80% subsidy for establishment of Custom Hiring Centres.
- Sustainable Alternative towards Affordable Transportation (SATAT) has been launched as an initiative to set up Compressed Bio-Gas (CBG) production plants and make CBG available in the market for use in automotive fuels.
- A City Specific Clean Air Action Plan has been prepared and rolled out for implementation in 131 non-attainment and million plus cities by Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEF&CC), with a focus on city specific short/ medium/ long term actions to control air pollution from sources such as vehicular emission, road dust, burning of biomass/ crop/ garbage/ Municipal Solid Waste, landfills, construction activities, industrial emission, etc.
- MoHFW has launched National Program on Climate Change and Human Health (NPCCHH) at National Centre for disease Control (NCDC), with 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 programme has now been expanded in all the State/UTs and activities such as training on Climate Sensitive Diseases, Surveillance on Acute Respiratory Illnesses and Heat related Illnesses, IEC on Air Pollution & Heat and its health impacts on health are taken.