

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

**LOK SABHA  
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.1911  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 29<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER, 2019**

**ASTHMA DUE TO POLLUTED AIR**

**1911. SHRIMATI RAMA DEVI:**

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

- (a) whether the Government has conducted any survey to ascertain the increasing number of asthma patients and the vulnerability of small children to this disease owing to polluted air;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and response of the Government thereon; and
- (c) the measures taken by the Government for the prevention thereof and the outcome of the measures taken so far in this regard?

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

(a) & (b): Government of India has not conducted any specific survey related to asthma patients and the vulnerability of small children to this disease owing to polluted air.

(c): Government has launched National Clean Air Programme (NCAP) in January 2019 to tackle the problem of air pollution in a comprehensive manner with targets to achieve 20 to 30 % reduction in PM10 and PM2.5 concentrations by 2024 keeping 2017 as base year. The overall objective is to augment and evolve effective ambient air quality monitoring network across the country besides ensuring comprehensive management plan for prevention, control and abatement of air pollution and enhancing public awareness and capacity building measures.

The plan includes 102 non-attainment cities, across 23 States and Union Territories, on the basis of their ambient air quality data between 2011 and 2015 and WHO report 2014/2018. A total of 86 city specific action plans have been approved for ground implementation.

In view of probable linkage of Respiratory illnesses with deteriorating Air Quality Index, Ministry Health & Family Welfare has also initiated following activities:

- Initiation of daily Sentinel surveillance for Acute Respiratory Illnesses in Emergency Department of Hospitals: initially in four hospitals (AIIMS, SJH, LHMC & RMLH), expanded to two more hospitals in January, 2019 (National Institute of Tuberculosis and Respiratory Diseases and Vallabh Bhai Patel Chest Institute)

- Providing feedback to hospitals for undertakings appropriate measures for managing respiratory illnesses in their hospitals
- Time and again issue Health advisory on health effects of Air Pollution to Health department of all States. This year health advisory was issued in September-October 2019 and then again after Diwali when AQI deteriorated beyond very Poor- Severe levels.
- Prepared and shared IEC posters on Air Pollution and its health effects with State Health Departments.
- Air Pollution and Health effects campaign have also been run on Social media (Ministry of Health and Family Welfare Website, National Centre for Disease Control Website, Twitter handle and Facebook pages).
- The States and UTs have also been advised to initiate sentinel surveillance for Acute Respiratory Illnesses in at least four to five major hospitals in those cities which are being listed as highly polluted cities by Central Pollution Control Board.
- Indian Council of Medical Research is also conducting a study on 'Health Impact Assessment in twenty most Polluted Cities' in the country. The report of this study may be valuable in terms of linking various health effects of air pollution.