

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

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.3114
TO BE ANSWERED ON 6TH DECEMBER, 2019**

IMPACT OF AIR POLLUTION ON HEALTH

3114. DR. PRITAM GOPINATHRAO MUNDE:

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

- (a) whether the Government is aware that the risks to health from pollution are far-reaching, not just limited to lung disease, as the exposure to air pollution has been linked to conditions such as heart disease, dementia, diabetes, stroke and mental health disorders and if so, the reaction of the Government thereto;
- (b) whether the Government is aware that the patients with eye problems are increasing day by day due to pollution and if so, the reaction of the Government thereto;
- (c) whether the Government has arranged sufficient medical support to tackle the above situation and if so, the details thereof;
- (d) whether considering the recurring problem due to pollution, the Union Government is considering a plan with the help and coordination with the State Governments to make all required medical facilities available to tackle the above situation; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof and the progress made so far in this regard?

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

(a) & (b): Yes, Indian Council of Medical Research in collaboration with Public Health Foundation of India and Institute for Health Metrics & Evaluation conducted the study titled “The impact of air pollution on deaths, disease burden, and life expectancy across the states of India: The Global Burden of Disease Study 2017” published in the Lancet Planetary Health 2018 on 6th December 2018. According to article 1.24 million (1.09-1.39) deaths in India in 2017, which were 12.5% of the total deaths, were attributable to air pollution, including 0.67 million (0.55-0.79) from ambient particulate matter pollution and 0.48 million (0.39-0.58) from household air pollution. Of the total Disability-Adjusted Life Years (DALYs) attributable to air pollution in India in 2017, largest proportions were from lower respiratory infections (29.3%), chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (29.2%), and ischaemic heart disease (23.8%), followed by stroke (7.5%), diabetes (6.9%), lung cancer (1.8%), and cataract (1.5%).

Study done at All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) also shows that 10-15% of people in Delhi suffer from chronic irritation and dry eye syndrome due to constant exposure to a high level of air pollutants.

(c) to (e): 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 of 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), further to be 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.