

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

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 3377
TO BE ANSWERED ON 13TH MARCH, 2020**

ACUTE RESPIRATORY INFECTION

3377. SHRI RAHUL RAMESH SHEWALE:

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

- (a) whether the cases of Acute Respiratory Infection (ARI) have increased in the country during each of the last three years and the current year;
- (b) if so, the details thereof, State/UT-wise along with the reaction of the Government thereto;
- (c) whether the Government has appointed Pulmonologist in proportion to the increase of patients of ARI in Central Government Hospitals across the country during the said period;
- (d) if so, the details thereof, State/UT-wise and hospital-wise and if not, the reasons therefor; and
- (e) the other steps taken by the Government in this direction?

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

(a) to (e): As per data from Central Bureau of Health Intelligence (CBHI), State / Union Territory (UT) wise details of cases of Acute Respiratory Infection (ARI), in the country during the years 2016 - 2018 are given in Annexure.

In January 2019, Government launched National Clean Air Programme (NCAP) 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 World Health Organization (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 Central Government Hospitals
- Providing feedback to hospitals for undertakings appropriate measures for managing respiratory illnesses in their hospitals
- Issuing Health advisory on health effects of Air Pollution to Health department of all States. Last health advisory was issued in September-October 2019 and then again after Diwali when AQI deteriorated beyond very Poor- Severe levels
- Prepared and shared Information, Education and Communication (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 (on the websites of Ministry of Health and Family Welfare and National Centre for Disease Control, Twitter handle and Facebook page)
- The States have also been advised to initiate sentinel surveillance for Acute Respiratory Illnesses in at least four to five major hospitals in the cities listed as highly polluted cities by the Central Pollution Control Board.

Government appoints Pulmonologists in the Central Government Hospitals as per vacancies and all possible efforts are made to fill up these vacancies of Pulmonologist following due procedure.

Annexure

State/UT-wise Cases due to Acute Respiratory Infection (ARI) reported during the years 2016–2018

S. No.	State /U.T	2016	2017	2018 (Provisional)
1	Andhra Pradesh	30,49,810	31,03,021	31,49,897
2	Arunachal Pradesh	21,670	36,250	33,668
3	Assam	20,667	22,834	24,100
4	Bihar	10,72,172	9,88,493	9,76,181
5	Chhattisgarh	4,41,269	4,91,234	4,58,828
6	Goa	61,300	78,854	88,564
7	Gujarat	18,39,032	19,64,767	22,10,656
8	Haryana	11,62,451	10,25,546	10,59,216
9	Himachal Pradesh	16,49,023	15,51,213	15,94,952
10	Jammu & Kashmir	7,63,176	9,87,906	9,07,757
11	Jharkhand	2,77,475	3,38,154	2,61,427
12	Karnataka	20,72,421	22,45,121	24,23,278
13	Kerala	56,00,975	58,87,367	58,57,820
14	Madhya Pradesh	17,82,675	17,35,465	11,65,501
15	Maharashtra	19,67,432	18,47,300	17,36,580
16	Manipur	46,272	51,205	54,108
17	Meghalaya	4,43,764	3,75,727	3,52,443
18	Mizoram	45,640	30,949	35,831
19	Nagaland	34,771	33,193	36,032
20	Odisha	25,12,502	23,44,668	17,92,816
21	Punjab	6,39,631	6,49,023	5,64,489
22	Rajasthan	37,93,357	44,79,438	47,57,749
23	Sikkim	1,09,541	99,310	96,258
24	Tamil Nadu	22,11,247	22,19,661	20,42,366
25	Telangana	11,89,102	7,69,370	7,40,009
26	Tripura	1,78,634	1,81,932	2,35,925
27	Uttarakhand	2,37,115	2,28,397	1,90,705
28	Uttar Pradesh	23,64,820	28,33,171	29,84,268
29	West Bengal	35,45,019	39,41,640	43,77,093
30	A & N Islands	57,220	39,553	36,705
31	Chandigarh	1,71,977	1,52,454	1,56,832
32	D & N Haveli	84,301	73,411	74,485
33	Daman & Diu	73,171	81,235	78,917
34	Delhi	3,55,234	2,61,963	4,21,467
35	Lakshadweep	35,198	43,908	33,374
36	Puducherry	9,00,460	10,05,900	9,85,963
Total		4,08,10,524	4,21,99,633	4,19,96,260

Source: Monthly Health Condition Reports from Directorate of Health Services of States/UTs