

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

**LOK SABHA  
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 4080  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 19<sup>TH</sup> MARCH, 2021**

**DEATHS DUE TO AIR POLLUTION**

**4080. SHRI VIJAY KUMAR:**

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

- (a) whether people are dying prematurely due to air pollution;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the number of deaths reported due to air pollution in Bihar, Uttar Pradesh, Delhi and other cities of the country during the last five years; and
- (d) the steps taken by the Government to reduce the level of air pollution and prevent such deaths?

**ANSWER**

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

(a) to (c): There is no conclusive data available to establish a direct correlation of death/disease exclusively due to air pollution. Air pollution is one of the many factors affecting respiratory ailments and associated diseases. Health is impacted by a number of factors which includes food habits, occupational habits, socio-economic status, medical history, immunity, heredity, etc., of the individuals apart from the environment.

While air pollution is known to be one of the aggravating factors for many respiratory ailments, specific information on the number of deaths exclusively due to air pollution is not available.

(d): 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 WHO report 2014/2018. 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:-

- Undertaking daily Sentinel surveillance for Acute Respiratory Illnesses in Emergency Department of different hospitals in Delhi.
- Providing feedback to hospitals for undertakings appropriate measures for managing respiratory illnesses in their hospitals.
- 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 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.
- Time and again issued Health advisory on health effects of Air Pollution to Health department of all States.
- Prepared and shared IEC posters on Air Pollution and its health effects with State Health Departments.