

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1505

ANSWERED ON:13.12.2013

CASES OF ASTHMA AND ACUTE RESPIRATORY AILMENTS

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

- (a) whether India has the highest number of patients suffering from asthma and acute respiratory ailments in the world and if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;
- (b) the number of cases of asthma and acute respiratory ailments and attributable deaths reported in the country during each of the last three years, State/UT-wise;
- (c) the steps taken/proposed by the Government to ensure adequate and affordable medical facilities/care for the patients suffering from asthma and acute respiratory ailments and the funds allocated/ utilised for the purpose in the country during the said period; and
- (d) the measures being taken by the Government to raise public awareness in this regard?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI GHULAM NABIAZAD)

(a)&(b): Inter-country data on the number of patients suffering from asthma and acute respiratory diseases in the world is not maintained by the Ministry of Health & Family Welfare. The details of State/UT-wise number of cases and deaths due to Acute Respiratory Infection reported during the years 2010, 2011 and 2012 are Annexed.

(c)&(d): There is no separate programme for Respiratory Diseases with earmarked funds.

Health being a State subject, it is primarily the responsibility of the State Government for providing health care for the patients suffering from asthma and acute respiratory ailments. The Central Government, however, supplements the efforts of the State Governments. Provisions for health system strengthening are made under the National Rural Health Mission (NRHM). Integrated Disease Surveillance Project (IDSP) also strengthens the surveillance at State and District levels and builds capacity for rapid response to disease outbreaks.

Under Pradhan Mantri Swasthya Suraksha Yojana (PMSSY) six new AIIMS have been set up and upgradation of identified medical colleges has been undertaken which will also improve health care facilities for the patients.

Government has also taken measures to control environmental pollution, tightening of vehicular and industrial norms, management of municipal hazardous and biomedical waste, promotion of cleaner technologies, strengthening of network of air quality monitoring stations, promoting public awareness etc.