

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:825

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HEALTH RESEARCH

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

- (a) whether the Government proposes to formulate a comprehensive health research policy and put in place a centralized academic research institute integrating all systems of medicines in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the financial and operational modalities worked out for the purpose;
- (c) whether the Government has conducted any study/ research to ascertain the impact of climate change on health; and
- (d) if so, the details and the outcome thereof?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI JAGAT PRAKASH NADDA)

(a) & (b): Department of Health Research has formulated a National Health Research Policy with a view to maximize returns on investments in health research and to prioritize, coordinate and to facilitate conduct, policies and programmes aimed at improving health especially of the vulnerable population.

The Policy Framework does not envisage setting up of any centralized academic research institute. However, it envisages creation of an appropriate health research system in the country through the creation of an overarching National Health Research Management Forum, having representation of all key stakeholders. The objectives of the NHRF would inter alia relate to i) advise on and evolve national health research policies and priorities and to evolve mechanism and action plans for their implementation. ii) develop a five year projection of the plans for health research and to prepare an annual National health research plan; iii) undertake mid-Plan appraisal for course correction, as needed; iv) promote development of health research activities in the country; v) review biomedical & health research management, and suggest strategies to overcome problems in implementation of policies; vi) suggest mechanisms to nurture a scientific environment to attract talent and development of human resources for biomedical and health research; and vii) facilitate utilization and dissemination of research results and advocacy for health research.

Though the Department of Health is keen for early operationalizing the various components of the National Health Research Policy, setting of requisite infrastructures and system would depend upon allocation of requisite financial resources and suitable strengthening of the Department by the Government.

During the financial years 2014-15 and 2015-16, funds have been allocated for the five new schemes as under:

Scheme 2014-15 2015-16

- (i) MRU 80.00 Cr. 45.50 Cr.
- (ii) MRHRU 20.00 Cr. 10.00 Cr.
- (ii) VDL 35.00 Cr. 46.00 Cr.
- (iii) GIA 34.00 Cr. 32.50 Cr.
- (iv) HRD 19.00 Cr. 8.00 Cr.

(c): Yes.

(d): Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate change has stated that they have brought out a study Report in November, 2010 regarding Climate Change and India, A 4x4 Assessment. A Sectoral and Regional Analysis for 2030 which covers INCCA: India Network for Climate Change Assessment on health is being reported on Chapter-7, Link http://www.moef.nic.in/download_public_information/fin-rpt-incca.pdf.

To assess the long term impact of air pollution on human health (a study on morbidity on adult and children), Central Pollution Control

Board had sponsored three epidemiological studies, 2 in Delhi (urban) and covering Northern and Eastern States (Rural) which were conducted by Chitranjan National Cancer Institute, Kolkata during 2002-2005 and 2007-2012. These studies indicate that several pulmonary and systemic changes and other health impairments are associated with cumulative exposure to high levels of particulate matter which increases the risk of various diseases including respiratory and cardiovascular. However, results are indicative rather than conclusive because health effects of air pollution are synergistic and additive which includes wide range of variation which also depends on various factors like food habits, socio-economic status, medical history, immunity of the individual and heredity.