

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1498

ANSWERED ON:04.03.2016

Diseases by Pollution

De(Nag) Dr. (Smt.) Ratna;Dubey Shri Nishikant ;Manjhi Shri Hari;Misra Shri Ajay (Teni);Rai Shri Prem Das;Selvam Shri V. Panneer

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

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

- (a) whether there is high prevalence of respiratory and other diseases due to air pollution across the country and if so, the details thereof;
- (b) the estimated number of people suffering from diseases due to exposure to polluted air and deaths occurred there from in the country year, State/UT-wise;
- (c) whether the Government had constituted a Committee comprising public health and environment experts as wells a officials under the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare to study and map exposure to air pollution and if so, the details thereof along with the composition and terms of reference of the said Committee;
- (d) whether the said Committee has submitted its report and if so, the details thereof along with the major recommendations made by the Committee along with action taken by the Government thereon; and
- (e) the corrective measures taken/ proposed by the Government to ensure adequate medical facilities for the patients suffering from diseases caused by air pollution?

Answer

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE

(SHRI JAGAT PRAKASH NADDA)

(a)& (b): Air pollution is known to be one of the aggravating factors for many respiratory ailments and cardiovascular disease. Several epidemiological studies have shown an association between particulate air pollution and exacerbations of illness in people with respiratory disease as well as rise in the number of deaths from cardiovascular and respiratory disease.

The data regarding number of people suffering from diseases due to exposure to polluted air and deaths occurred there from is not centrally maintained.

(c): The Ministry of Health & FW constituted a steering committee on "Health related issues on Air Pollution" in January, 2014 with following terms of reference:

I. To examine and document the evidence available on indoor and outdoor air pollution and its impact on various health outcomes including Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary and other Respiratory Diseases.

II. To identify different institutional and individual sources responsible for causing indoor and outdoor air pollution using available evidence.

III. To suggest ways in which data can be gathered from various government sources which will facilitate studies of the causes and impact or air pollution.

IV. To commission such studies as are necessary on the causes and impact of indoor and outdoor air pollution.

V. To recommend action required to be taken in order to control/reduce the pollution caused by the sources identified.

VI. To recommend methods and framework to monitor indoor and outdoor air pollution and to achieve the targets adopted in this regard.

The committee comprised experts drawn from the field of, inter-alia, Public Health, Pulmonary Medicine, Environment Health Engineering, Economics and representatives of relevant Ministries / Government Organisations.

(d): The committee has submitted their report which has been accepted in principle by the Ministry. Major recommendations of the committee include mitigating air pollution and health impacts by each source including household air pollution due to use of biomass and coal for household cooking energy, vehicular pollution, trash burning, use of diesel gensets in residential or commercial buildings, road dust, brick kilns, industries and power plants. The Committee has also suggested activities including appropriate policy and legal framework for reducing air pollution on the basis of public health considerations, strengthening policy-making capabilities in the

area of air pollution and health and data collection on air pollution and health impacts.

(e): Health being a State subject, it is primarily the responsibility of the State governments to provide health care for the patients. However, the Central Government through the hospitals under it, supplements the efforts of the State Governments.

Facilities to attend patients affected by diseases due to air pollution are available at the Central Government hospitals like All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS), Delhi, Dr. Ram Manohar Lohia Hospital, Delhi, Safdarjung Hospital, Delhi, Jawaharlal Institute of Post Graduate Medical Education and Research (JIPMER), Puducherry and Post Graduate Institute of Medical Education and Research (PGIMER), Chandigarh, NEIGRIHMS, Shillong and RIMS, Imphal.