

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF EARTH SCIENCES
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION No. 1758
TO BE ANSWERED ON TUESDAY, JULY 09, 2019**

MEASURES TO CONTROL RISING TEMPERATURE

1758. SHRI HUSAIN DALWAI:

Will the Minister of EARTH SCIENCES be pleased to state:

- (a) the measures taken to ensure that the detrimental environmental factors such as heatwave, droughts, etc. occurring due to rising temperature are brought under control in the country;**
- (b) the steps taken so far to counter issues of rising temperature;**
- (c) the details of steps that Government has taken since 2014 that aid drop in temperature levels;**
- (d) the measures that were taken to account for saving flora and fauna; and**
- (e) what shall be done for the citizens in cases of rising health issues like death toll due to heat wave, if so, the details thereof?**

ANSWER

**MINISTER FOR MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND
MINISTRY OF EARTH SCIENCES
(DR. HARSH VARDHAN)**

- (a) Climate change is a global phenomenon and requires cooperation of all nations based on the principle of 'Common but Differentiated Responsibilities and Respective Capabilities'. India is a Party to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, its Kyoto Protocol and the Paris Agreement. India is meeting its commitments under the aforesaid instruments.**
- (b-e) The Government of India is implementing National Action Plan on Climate Change (NAPCC) which comprises of eight missions in specific areas of solar energy, enhancing energy efficiency, water, agriculture, Himalayan eco-system, sustainable habitat, green India and strategic knowledge on climate change. These Missions, inter-alia, focus on mitigation and adaptation aspects of climate change. Action under these eight missions is implemented by their respective nodal Ministries.**

Thirty three States and Union Territories have prepared their respective State Action Plan on Climate Change (SAPCC) in lines with NAPCC taking into account State's specific issues relating to climate change. These SAPCCs inter-alia outline sector specific and cross sectoral priority actions including adaptation.

As an adaptive measure regarding heat waves, India Meteorological Department (IMD) in collaboration with local health departments have started heat action plan in many parts of the country to forewarn the heat waves and advising action to be taken during such occasions. Heat action plan became operational since 2013.

The Heat Action Plan is a comprehensive early warning system and preparedness plan for extreme heat events. The Plan presents immediate as well as longer-term actions to increase preparedness, information-sharing, and response coordination to reduce the health impacts of extreme heat on vulnerable populations. National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) and IMD are working with 23 states that recorded high temperatures leading to heat-wave conditions to develop heat action plans.

NDMA has also taken many steps to counter issues of rising temperature. The details are at annexure.

Annexure

- (i) **NDMA laid down the National Policy on Disaster Management (NPDM) in 2009. It portrays a paradigm shift from erstwhile 'Response-Centric' approach to the holistic management of disasters with emphasis on Prevention, Preparedness and Mitigation.**
- (ii) **NDMA issued guidelines for 'Preparation of Action Plan – Prevention and Management of Heat-Wave' in April, 2016 for facilitating the States prone to heat waves to deal with disastrous heat wave situation. The guidelines on Heat Wave Action Plan were revised in 2017.**
- (iii) **NDMA has been organising workshops on heat wave in coordination with one of the heat wave prone States since 2017 to deal with situations arising out of heat wave. In 2017, NDMA in collaboration with Government of Telangana organized a regional Workshop on preparation of Heat Wave Action Plan at Hyderabad, Telangana on 22 – 23 February, 2017 to share experiences by Heat Wave prone States/UTs. In 2018, NDMA in collaboration with the Government of Andhra Pradesh organised a two-day national workshop on heat wave risk reduction at Vijayawada on 21-22 February, 2018. This workshop aimed to sensitise the heat wave prone States to the need of implementing the salient features of the Guidelines. In 2019, NDMA in collaboration with Government of Maharashtra organized a two-day National Workshop on Heat Wave (Themes: Early Warning, Early Action - Big Impact on Heat Wave Risk Reduction) at Nagpur on 27-28 February 2019. The broad objectives of workshop include sharing of experiences and lessons learnt, long term mitigation measures and future course of action on heat wave.**
- (iv) **NDMA mobilized an Inter-Agency Co-ordination with IMD, Ministry of Earth Science, Integrated Disease Surveillance Program (IDSP)- National Centre for Disease Control (NCDC), Ministry of Health and Family Welfare and other concerned Ministries/Departments.**
- (v) **NDMA also organized a meeting with Nodal officers of central Ministries / Departments on 27.03.2019 for preparedness and mitigation measures of heat wave risk reduction.**
- (vi) **NDMA issues advisories to the States for taking necessary actions. NDMA issued specific advisories for Ministries / Departments (18.02.2019), for State Governments (12.03.2019), for District Administration and Municipal Corporation through SDMAs (18.02.2019).**

- (vii) NDMA is also focusing on community sensitization and awareness generation through Social Media, print/electronic media, advertisements, short TV commercial films on heat waves protection.**
- (viii) NDMA reviewed heat-wave preparedness through video conference on 21.4.2017, 11.05.2018 , 30.04.2019 & 21.06.2019 with all heat wave prone states**
- (ix) Close Coordination and monitoring were done with heat wave affected states for taking necessary mitigation action on the basis of IMD forecast.**
- (x) NDMA facilitates the state governments for preparing Heat Wave Action Plan with clear roles & responsibilities of each department to prevent, mitigate and respond to Heat wave in respective states.**
- (xi) Based on this Action Plan, the State Governments and District administration take all possible measures to prevent mortalities due to heat wave. Measures taken include adjustment of time slots for workers to avoid exposure to extreme hot weather and started drinking water kiosk, supply of water through tanker, setting up of special shelter homes, increased health facilities and keeping stock of ORS packets at health centers and nearest anganwadi centres, cooling system, construction of Gaushalas with fodder banks etc.**
- (xii) In the past few years, despite Heat wave being a major challenge, the action taken by central /state governments, district administration, forecast department, health department, and civil society in a planned way to monitor the situation resulted in significant reduction in casualties due to heat wave. Intense and sustained efforts by all the stakeholders, including regular monitoring and follow-up by NDMA through Video conferences, creating awareness among people through range of IEC activities, etc resulted in reduction in mortality due to heat wave.**
