

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
 MINISTRY OF EARTH SCIENCES  
 LOK SABHA  
 UNSTARRED QUESTION No. 3225  
 TO BE ANSWERED ON WEDNESDAY, MARCH 22, 2017

HEAT WAVES

3225. SHRI C. MAHENDRAN:

Will the Minister of EARTH SCIENCES be pleased to state:

- (a) whether scorching heat waves in the country has killed thousands of people in the past year;
- (b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise;
- (c) whether any differences have been observed over the years in the intensity of such heat wave, State-wise;
- (d) if so, the details thereof;
- (e) whether the Government has declared a heat wave as "National Disaster"; and
- (f) if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE FOR MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND  
 MINISTRY OF EARTH SCIENCES  
 (SHRI Y. S. CHOWDARY)

- (a) No Madam. The death toll in 2016 due to heat wave as reported has been 557.
- (b) The state wise information regarding deaths due to heat wave in the last four years is given in Table below.

Casualties\* due to Heat Wave conditions

STATE	2013	2014	2015	2016
ANDHRA PRADESH	1393	447	1422	100
TELANGANA			584	300
ODISHA	1	24	50	20
WEST BENGAL	4	19	14	
ASSAM	12			
JHARAKHAND	6			
MAHARASHTRA	3	36		43
M.P.	3		2	
RAJASTHAN	5	6	2	3
GUJRAT	6	3	7	87
CHHATTISGARH		14		
KERALA				4
TAMIL NADU				
KARNATAKA				
TOTAL	1433	549	2081	557

(c-d) No madam. Heat wave occurrences zones over the years are found to be over the same areas of such prevalence in the past. However the frequency of severe heat waves had increased sharply in the recent years.

Though the severity of heat waves in 2016 remained more severe than that in 2015, the death toll has been less (557) than that in 2015 (2081).

This is essentially due to advance warnings issued in the form of summer temperature outlook and update of heat wave hotspots on weekly basis and prompt response action taken by various state governments to minimize the public exposure. Location specific heat index forecasts also were introduced from last year to communicate the likely severity of heat waves occurrences.

(e) No Madam.

(f) Does not arise.

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