GOVERNMENT OF INDIA MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE

RAJYA SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. - 265 TO BE ANSWERED ON 19.07.2022

HEAT-RELATED MEDICAL PATIENTS AND FATALITIES

265. SHRI TIRUCHI SIVA:

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

- (a) The number of heat-related medical patients in hospitals during the past three months;
- (b) whether Government has data on the number of deaths which were caused due to summer heat in the past three months;
- (c) if so, the details thereof;
- (d) whether Government has taken any measures to reduce the fatalities and provide required medical services; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof, and if not, the reasons therefor?

ANSWER THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. BHARATI PRAVIN PAWAR)

(a) to (e): The available information regarding heat-related illnesses and deaths during last three months in the country is attached at Annexure 1.

Under National Programme on Climate Change and Human Health (NPCCHH), Union Health Ministry has taken several initiatives focused on providing technical support to states to address heat wave related issues. These include:

"National Action Plan on Heat Related Illnesses" has been released in July, 2021and also available on the website of Union Ministry of Health & Family Welfare.

States are further advised to prepare their state-level heat health sector plan with focus on awareness building, health system capacity upgradation and strengthening of health infrastructure to treat heat related illness and reduce related deaths.

The State Officials has been advised to disseminate messages to increase general awareness through various IEC activities and conduct sensitization workshops on heat's health impact and its prevention.

To strengthen the public healthcare system, NPCCHH conducts capacity building trainings/workshops of State/District level programme officers, health care professionals and health workers on tracking and managing of heat-related health issues.

India Meteorological Department (IMD) issues heatwave alerts (early warning), these are further shared with State Nodal Officers-Climate Change to ensure health facility preparedness.

Multiple advisories on health sector preparedness, including do's and don'ts are also shared with states.

Daily surveillances on heat related illnesses is also initiated under Integrated Disease Surveillance Programme (IDSP) in all States and Districts.

Financial assistance for awareness generation, capacity building and heat related illness surveillance is also provided to States through National Health Mission.

Annexure 1

Heat-Related Illness Reports, April-June 2022, India

	New cases of Heat- stroke	No of Suspected Heatstroke Deaths	New Confirmed Heat- stroke Deaths
April	1,091	44	7
May	1,619	10	14
June	750	2	2
Total	3,460	56	23