

11% of Delhiites have rhinitis, asthma: Nadda

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: More than 11% of Delhiites are suffering from asthma and rhinitis, the government has said while acknowledging that air pollution is an "aggravating" factor for respiratory and cardiovascular diseases.

of cases and deaths due to pollution, epidemiological studies by the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) to assess the long term impact of air pollution on human health showed a link between pollution and various diseases.

"The studies indicate several pulmonary and systematic changes, altered immunity and health issues associated with cumulative exposure to high level of particulate pollution that increase the risk of respiratory and cardiovascular diseases," Nadda said.

Recently, the World Health Organisation also highlighted the issue in its 68th World Health Assembly in Geneva, where India assumed presidency after a gap of 19 years.

As per WHO assessment, deaths due to air pollution have increased fourfold across the globe over the past decade. China and India are by far the worst affected.

According to WHO, about 8 million deaths globally are attributable to air pollution, including 4.3 million deaths each year associated with exposure to household (indoor) air pollution and further 3.7 million deaths because of ambient (outdoor) air pollution. From indoor air pollution, China accounted for nearly 1.5 million and India for close to 1.3 million. Between them, the two Asian giants accounted for nearly two-thirds of the global total.

As for outdoor pollution, the south-east Asian region, which includes India, accounted for about 9.4 lakh deaths and the category that includes China had 1.7 million.

The WHO assessment also highlighted that around 30% of all lung cancer deaths can be attributed to the joint effects of household and ambient air pollution.

Your car might not run over someone but it can still KILL



POLLUTION FRIGHT

AIR QUALITY INDEX PM2.5

Delhi	76	Good
Tomorrow	85	Good
Pune	42	Good
Tomorrow	37	Good
Source: SAFAR@MoES-IITM-IMD (10 stations)		
Hyderabad	59	Good
Chennai	47	Good
Kolkata	28	Good
Mumbai	26	Good

US Embassy data calculated as per Indian standards by SAFAR@MoES-IITM-IMD
Based on 1 Station Data Per City at 4pm

"As per a survey conducted by Vallabhbhai Patel Chest Institute in 2006, which covered 5,900 adults belonging to urban, rural and slum population in Delhi, 11.69% were found suffering from rhinitis and 11.03% from asthma," health minister JP Nadda said in the Lok Sabha on Friday.

Though there is no specific data indicating exact number