

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF EDUCATION
DEPARTMENT OF SCHOOL EDUCATION & LITERACY

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION No. 63
TO BE ANSWERED ON 18.07.2022

Tobacco Shops in School Vicinity

†63. SHRIMATI RANJANBEN DHANANJAY BHATT:

Will the Minister of EDUCATION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that due to the presence of tobacco shops near the schools in different part of the country including Delhi, children are getting addicted to tobacco;
- (b) if so, whether the Government is considering to take any concrete steps in this regard; and
- (c) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

A N S W E R

**MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EDUCATION
(SMT. ANNPURNA DEVI)**

(a) to (c): Central Government has enacted the Cigarettes and other Tobacco Products (Prohibition of Advertisement and Regulation of Trade and Commerce, Production, Supply and Distribution) Act, 2003 (COPTA 2003), to discourage use of tobacco, with emphasis on protection of children and young people from being addicted to the use of tobacco. As per Section 6 (a) of Cigarettes and Other Tobacco Products (Prohibition of Advertisement and Regulation of Trade and Commerce, Production, Supply and Distribution) Act, 2003 (COTPA, 2003) read with Cigarettes and Other Tobacco Products (Prohibition of Advertisement and Regulation of Trade and Commerce, Production, Supply and Distribution) Amendment Rules, 2011, there is prohibition on sale of tobacco products to and by persons below the age of 18 years and as per Section 6 (b) of COTPA, 2003, there is prohibition on sale of tobacco products in an area within a radius of one hundred yards of any educational institution.

Revised Guidelines for 'Tobacco free Educational Institutions (TOFEI)' have been developed by Ministry of Health and Family Welfare for effective implementation of Section-6 of COPTA, 2003. The guidelines were circulated to all States/UTs by Department

of School Education and Literacy for effective implementation of these guidelines in all educational institutions vide letter dated 17.09.2019 and reiterated vide letters dated 18.12.2020, 08.01.2021 and 07.07.2022. These guidelines lay down the roles & responsibilities of different stakeholders' viz. Central Government: State Governments: Educational Institutions and Civil Society Organization for making Educational Institution tobacco free. Public Health is a State subject and the primary responsibility for enforcement of the Act lies with the State Governments.

Further, under the School Health and Wellness Programme (SHP) under Ayushman Bharat, special classes and experiential learning activities like Role Play, Folk Dance, Poster making, Creative writing, Debate, Discussion and Skill Building activities are organised with school students for awareness generation on issues related to tobacco, drug / substance misuse. The Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) has introduced Life-Skills education as a part of curriculum in the schools affiliated to it. Life-skills enable students to abstain from tobacco and other addictive substances. CBSE schools follow textbooks of NCERT which have content related to drug abuse including the ill effects of tobacco in the syllabus of Classes VIII, XI and XII. CBSE has also been issuing periodic circulars to schools affiliated to it for sensitizing all students about ill-effects of tobacco.

In addition, 'Guidelines on School Safety and Security' developed by the Department, inter-alia, contain provisions for fixing the accountability of school management, various stakeholders and different departments in ensuring the safety and security of children studying in Government Schools, Government-Aided Schools and Private Schools. These guidelines are advisory in nature and inter-alia include roles & responsibility of School/School Management for taking necessary action in case of sale of tobacco or any other intoxicating substances is noticed within 100 yards of the school premises.
