

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE
LOK SABHA**

STARRED QUESTION NO:12
ANSWERED ON:24.07.2000
CANCER DUE TO CONSUMPTION OF GUTKA
NAWAL KISHORE RAI;SUSHIL KUMAR INDORA

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

- (a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the newsitem captioned `Rojana Gutka Khane Walon Ko Kabhi Bhi Cancer Ho Sakta Hai` appearing in the Navbharat Times dated June 17, 2000;
- (b) if so, whether the danger of cancer has increased in the country due to the consumption of `Gutka`;
- (c) if so, whether the Government have received any representations from the medical specialists and doctors to apprise the public of the ill effects of consumption of `Gutka`;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the action taken/proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. C.P. THAKUR)

(a)to(e): A statement is laid on the table of Lok Sabha.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 12 FOR 24.7.2000

Yes, Sir. Scientific evidence produced by research institutions concludes that consumption of Gutka causes Oral Sub-mucous Fibrosis (OSF) and oral Cancer. Studies conducted in India indicate that the risk of developing oral Cancer is 3 to 10 times more among tobacco chewers as compared to non-users of tobacco.

Suggestions from various quarters have been received by the Government for and against the proposed ban. Other suggestions include educational programmes about the ill-effects of the products through mass media for consumer awareness. The Food (Health) Authorities of States/UTs have been sensitized for initiating action to promote mass awareness programmes through advertisements, lectures, exhibitions and hoardings including video shows in schools/colleges for discouraging, consumption of chewing tobacco/Gutka Pan Masala. In addition, necessary labelling provisions have been made in the PFA Rules to make a statutory warning about the injurious nature of Gutka and Pan Masala to health.