

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3461
ANSWERED ON:16.04.2008
BAN ON SALE OF TOBACCO PRODUCTS
Singh Kunwar Rewati Raman

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

- (a) whether tobacco products are still being sold to persons less than 18 years of age despite a ban on such sale; and
(b) the action taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR HEALTH & FAMILY WELFARE(SMT. PANABAKA LAKSHMI)

(a)&(b): Section 6 of "The Cigarette and Other Tobacco Products (Prohibition of Advertisement and Regulation of Trade and Commerce, Production, Supply and Distribution) Act, 2003" Tobacco Control Act, prohibits sale of cigarette and other tobacco products of a person below the age of 18 years. States Government are mainly responsible for implementation of the provisions of the Act.

Government of India has launched the pilot phase of the National Tobacco Control Programme (NTCP) in 2007-08. The proposed national programme broadly includes.

1. Capacity building of the State in the effective implement of the tobacco control act, 2003. It is proposed to set up State Tobacco Control Cells and District Level monitoring cells.
2. Train health workers, school teachers, etc. on ill effects of Tobacco;
3. Engage NGOs, to carry out school programme in the Government Schools.
4. Mass media/IEC campaign, tailored to regional needs.
5. Capacity building laboratories for tobacco product testing.

The pilot phase of the programme has been launched in 18 districts of 9 States.