

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:5713
ANSWERED ON:30.04.2010
SMOKING AMONG WOMEN
Semmalai Shri S.

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

- (a) whether the number of women smoking and consuming various tobacco products is increasing in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the corrective measures being taken by the Government in this regard;
- (c) whether some cigarette manufacturing companies in the country have been reported advertising their products that smoking keep women slim and increase their vitality;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the action taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR HEALTH & FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI S. GANDHISELVAN)

(a & b): As per Global Youth Tobacco Survey (GYTS) conducted in 2009 among school children aged 13-15 years, 3.7% of girls were reported to be smoking as compared to 3.6% in 2006, while the tobacco use among girls were 9.4% in 2006 and 8.3% in 2009. As per the National Family Health Survey (NFHS)-2 data published in 1998-99, 13.8% women were consuming some form of tobacco whereas NFHS-3 (2005-06) data published in 2007 indicate that 10.8% women in India consume some form of tobacco.

Government of India enacted "The Cigarettes and Other Tobacco Products (Prohibition of Advertisement and Regulation of Trade and Commerce, Production, Supply and Distribution) Act, 2003" (COTPA) to protect citizens, with special attention to risk groups such as pregnant women and children, from involuntary exposure to tobacco smoke, and to discourage consumption of cigarettes and other tobacco products by imposing various regulatory measures. The salient features of the Act are as under :-

- i. Ban on smoking in public places. (Section -4)
- ii. Ban on direct/indirect advertisement of tobacco products. (Section -5)
- iii. Ban on sale of tobacco products to children below 18 year & ban on sale of tobacco products within 100 yards of the educational institution. (Section - 6)
- iv. Specified health warnings on tobacco products. (Section - 7)

In order to effectively implement the tobacco control Act/Rules, and also to create awareness about ill effects of tobacco, the pilot phase of National Tobacco Control Programme has been launched in 42 Districts of 21 States. The programme broadly envisages-

1. Mass media anti- tobacco campaign
2. Establishment of tobacco product testing labs
3. Capacity building at the State and District level by setting up State Tobacco Control Cells and District Tobacco Control Cell in order to:-
 - i. Engage NGOs, to carry out school health campaign in the Schools.
 - ii. Train the health workers, school teachers, etc. on ill effects of Tobacco;
 - iii. Monitoring implementation of provisions under COTPA.
 - iv. Providing help to tobacco users for tobacco cessation.

(c): No such instance has been brought to the notice of Government.

(d) & (e): Do not arise.