

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:5791

ANSWERED ON:30.04.2010

WHO FRAMEWORK CONVENTION ON TOBACCO CONTROL

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

- (a) the objectives of the Framework Convention on Tobacco Control (FCTC) and the guidelines laid down therein;
- (b) the specific action taken by the Government to implement this guideline on Article 8 (Protection from exposure to tobacco smoke);
- (c) Article 5.3 (Tobacco Industry Interference);
- (d) Article 11 (Packaging and Labelling of Tobacco Products) and Article 13 (Tobacco advertising, promotion and sponsorship);
- (e) whether the Government proposes to come up with a white paper elaborating its policies, plans and priorities in tobacco control in the country; and
- (f) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

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

(a): The objective of the Framework Convention on Tobacco Control (FCTC) is to protect the present and future generations from the devastating health, social, environmental and economic consequences of tobacco consumption and exposure to tobacco smoke by providing a framework for tobacco control measures in order to reduce continually and substantially the prevalence of tobacco use and exposure to tobacco smoke.

Guidelines have been released by the FCTC in respect to Article 5.3 [relating to protection of public health policies from commercial interests of the tobacco industry], Article 8 [relating to protection from exposure to tobacco smoke], Article 11[relating to packaging and labelling of tobacco products] and Article 13[relating to tobacco advertising, promotion and sponsorship]. These guidelines are available in published form and on the website of the WHO-FCTC

(b): Government of India has in 2004 ratified the WHO-Framework Convention on Tobacco Control (FCTC) which enlists key strategies for reduction in demand and reduction in supply of tobacco products.

With regard to Article 5.3, the Government of India has further 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 groups at risk, 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 educational institutions. (Section - 6)
- iv. Specified health warnings on tobacco products. (Section - 7)

With regard to Article 8 of the WHO-FCTC, Government of India has notified "The Prohibition of Smoking in Public Places Rules, 2008" vide GSR No.417(E) dated 30-05-2008, which came into force from 2nd October 2008, whereby smoking is strictly prohibited in all public places thereby protecting non-smokers from exposure to tobacco smoke.

With regard to Article 11 of the WHO-FCTC, Government of India has notified "The Cigarettes and Other Tobacco Products (Packaging and Labelling) Rules, 2008" vide GSR No.182 dated 15-03-2008 which came into force from 31-05-2009 thereby informing the public through specified health warnings including pictorial warning about the adverse effect of tobacco products, including both smoking and smokeless forms.

With regard to Article 13 of the WHO-FCTC, Government of India has notified "The Cigarettes and Other Tobacco Products (Prohibition of Advertisement and Regulation of Trade and Commerce, Production, Supply and Distribution) Rules, 2004", which came into force from 01-05-2004.

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

1. Mass media anti- tobacco campaign
2. Establishing 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 schools.
 - ii. Train the health workers, school teachers, etc. on ill effects of tobacco;
 - iii. Monitor the implementation of provisions under COTPA.
 - iv. Provide help to consumers of tobacco for tobacco cessation.

(c): No.

(d): Do not arise.