

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:6918
ANSWERED ON:07.05.2010
HARMFUL INGREDIENTS IN GUTKHA AND PAN MASALA
Nahata Smt. P. Jaya Prada

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

- (a) whether a large number of people are suffering from mouth cancer in the country owing to consumption of gutkha and pan masala in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the corrective measures taken/ proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard;
- (d) whether gutkha/pan masala manufacturing companies use harmful ingredients which are either beyond level permissible or not permissible under the existing laws; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof and the action taken/proposed to be taken against them?

Answer

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

(a) to(c) All tobacco products, both smoking and smokeless forms, are known to be a major cause of mouth cancer. Based on data from Population Based Cancer Registries functioning under National Cancer Registry Programme of (ICMR), the estimated number of new cases of cancers of mouth for 2010, are 30921 for men and 14940 for women.

The Government of India has notified "Cigarettes and Other Tobacco Products (Prohibition of Advertisement and Regulation of Trade and Commerce, Production, Supply and Distribution) Act, (COTPA) 2003" 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)

Government of India has ratified the WHO-Framework Convention on Tobacco Control (FCTC) which enlists key strategies for reduction in demand and reduction in supply of tobacco products in the country. In an effort to increase the awareness of general population regarding ill effects of tobacco, anti tobacco media campaign is run a part of National Tobacco Control Programme.

(d) & (e) At present, no such permissible limit has been prescribed regarding harmful ingredients in tobacco products. However, Standards of Pan Masala have been prescribed under Appendix – B, item A.30 of "The Prevention of Food Adulteration (PFA) Rules, 1955. The implementation of "The Prevention of Food Adulteration (PFA) Act, 1954" and Rules made there-under is entrusted to Food (Health) Authorities of States/UTs Government. In case of samples found not confirming to standards and the general provisions prescribed under PFA Rules 1955, action is taken by the State Food (Health) Authorities under the PFA, Act, 1954.