

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

STARRED QUESTION NO:409

ANSWERED ON:23.04.2010

PICTORIAL HEALTH WARNING ON TOBACCO PRODUCTS

Majhi Shri Pradeep Kumar;Mani Shri Jose K.

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

- (a) whether as per the provisions of the labeling and packaging rules of the Cigarettes and Other Tobacco Products Act (COTPA), 2003 the pictorial health warnings are to be rotated every 12 months from the date of notification;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken for ensuring their strict compliance;
- (c) whether the Government has issued a notification for the new mandatory pictorial health warnings for various kind of tobacco products in the country;
- (d) if so, the details thereof;
- (e) whether any survey has been conducted to evaluate the impact of such warnings on the people particularly children in the rural areas; and
- (f) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI GHULAM NABIAZAD)

(a)to(f): A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 409 FOR 23RD APRIL, 2010

(a) Yes, Madam.

(b) The Rules related to pictorial warnings came into effect on 31st May, 2009. Since then pictorial warnings were notified (Annexure-A).

Under Sections 12 and 13 of The Cigarettes and other Tobacco Products (Prohibition of Advertisement and Regulation of Trade and Commerce, Production, Supply and Distribution) Act, 2003, any police officer not below the rank of Sub Inspector or any officer of State Food and Drug Administration or any officer holding the equivalent rank not below the rank of Sub Inspector of Police, is authorized to exercise powers for search and seizure of packets / packages cigarettes and other tobacco products, in case the provisions of this Act are being contravened. The State Governments/ UTs, Department of Commerce, Department of Revenue, Director General Of Foreign Trade have been requested to ensure the strict enforcement of the Rules relating to display of pictorial warnings on packs of cigarettes / tobacco products. Further, a quarter page public notice was also issued for informing the public of the provisions of the Rules.

(c) Yes, Madam.

(d) The notification to bring into effect new pictorial warnings to be affixed on retail packs of cigarettes and other tobacco products was issued on 5th March, 2010, and will- be effective from 01/06/2010.

(e)&(f): A study was conducted by HRIDAY, a Delhi based NGO, in Delhi, Uttarakhand, UP, Haryana and Tripura to test the effectiveness of existing pictorial warnings. 5% of the respondents were in the age group of 10-19 years. More than 63% of them felt that the warning labels were inadequate in conveying the adverse impact of tobacco use on health.