

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2136

ANSWERED ON:06.08.2010

USE OF TOBACCO

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

- (a) whether according to National Family Health Survey-3, the use of tobacco is rising among the girls and women in the country;
- (b) if so, the details of the survey report;
- (c) the reaction of the Government in this regard;
- (d) the steps taken by the Government to regulate the production of tobacco products and success achieved thereon; and
- (e) the further steps taken by the Government to control mouth cancer caused by consumption of tobacco products?

Answer

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

(a) & (b) As per the National Family Health Survey (NFHS)-2 published in 1998-99, 13.8% women were consuming some form of tobacco. The subsequent National Family Health Survey NFHS-3 (2005-06) data published in 2007, indicates that 10.8% women age 15-49 use any kind of tobacco.

(c) to (e) 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. 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)

In order to effectively implement the tobacco control Act/Rules, and also to create awareness about health 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 awareness campaign
- 2. Establishment of tobacco product testing laboratories
- 3. Capacity building at the State and District level by setting up State Tobacco Control Cells and District Tobacco Control Cells
- 4. Pilot project for alternatives to tobacco/bidi crops has been taken up in collaboration with the Central Tobacco Research Institute (CTRI), Rajahmundry, Andhra Pradesh
- 5. Global Adult Tobacco Survey (GATS) has been conducted in 29 states and 2 UT's and final report to be released shortly.

Ministry of Health & Family Welfare has notified the new specified health warnings on all tobacco product packages vide GSR 176(E) dated 5th March 2010, effective from 1st December 2010.

Ministry of Labour undertook a pilot project to provide alternative vocations to bidi rollers in six regions where bidi is produced viz Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, West Bengal and Rajasthan.