

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:787
ANSWERED ON:12.11.2010
BAN ON GUTKA AND PAN MASALA
Ray Shri Rudramadhab

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

- (a) whether a large number of people are suffering from mouth and other type of cancer owing to consumption of gutka and pan masala in the country;
- (b) whether the Government proposes to ban the use of gutkha and pan masala in the country;
- (c) if so, the details thereof; and
- (d) if not, the reasons therefor?

Answer

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

(a): As per the report on "Time Trends in Cancer Incidence Rates" (1982-2005) published by the National Cancer Registry Programme of Indian Council of Medical Research. In 2010 an estimated approximately 78,500 persons developed cancer of tongue and mouth in India.

(b) to (d): Under the Cigarettes and Other Tobacco Products (Prohibition of Advertisement and Regulation of Trade and Commerce, Production, Supply and Distribution) Act, (COPTA), 2003, provisions have been made to discourage young children from using of tobacco products including Gutkha and protect people from tobacco smoke (second hand smoke).

The Act has the following provisions to prevent/discourage young children/minors from tobacco use:-

- i) Ban on direct or indirect advertisement/promotion and sponsorship of tobacco products
- ii) Ban on sale of tobacco products to children below 18 years & ban on sale of tobacco products within 100 yards of educational institutions.