

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1553

ANSWERED ON:04.03.2011

PICTORIAL WARNINGS ON TOBACCO PRODUCTS

De Dr. Ratna; Dharmshi Shri Babar Gajanan; Mohan Shri P. C.; Pandurang Shri Munde Gopinathrao; Ramasubbu Shri S.; Singh Alias Pappu Singh Shri Uday

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

- (a) whether the Government has assessed the adequacy and efficacy of pictorial health warnings on tobacco products in deterring the people from consuming tobacco products;
- (b) if so, the details and the outcome thereof;
- (c) whether the Government has implemented the new pictorial health warning from December, 2010 as announced and notified earlier;
- (d) if so, the details thereof;
- (e) if not, the reasons therefor along with the time by which these are likely to be effective; and
- (f) the further measures proposed by the Government to ban the use of tobacco products in the country?

Answer

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

(a) & (b) As per the Global Adult Tobacco Survey, India (GATS), 2010, 71 percent of cigarette smokers, 62 percent of bidi smokers and 63 percent of users of smokeless tobacco had noticed health warning on the packages of the respective tobacco products. Among those who noticed such warnings, 38% of cigarette smokers, 29% of bidi smokers and 34% of smokeless tobacco users thought of quitting such products because of the warning labels on the respective packages of tobacco products.

(c) to (e) Government of India had notified the new pictorial health warning vide GSR no. 176 dated 05.03.2010 which was to come into force from 1st December, 2010. However, Government subsequently amended that the current set of pictorial warnings would continue until 01-12-2011 and the time frame for rotation of the pictorial warnings thereafter would be two years.

(f) There is no provision to ban the use of tobacco products under "The Cigarettes and Other Tobacco Products (Prohibition of Advertisement and Regulation of Trade and Commerce, Production, Supply and Distribution) Act, (COTPA), 2003".