

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3469

ANSWERED ON:29.07.2009

AWARENESS ABOUT HARMFUL CONSEQUENCES OF SMOKING

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

- (a) whether India is in the grip of a smoking epidemic likely to cause nearly a million deaths a year by 2010;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the reaction of the Government thereto; and
- (c) the policy framed by the Union Government to generate awareness among the people about the harmful consequences of smoking?

**Answer**

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

(a to c) As per a study published in New England Journal of Medicine, 2008 (358), smoking is likely to cause 1 million deaths a year by 2010.

'The Cigarettes and Other Tobacco Products (Prohibition of Advertisement and Regulation of Trade and Commerce, Production, Supply and Distribution) Act, 2003' enacted in the year 2003 is intended to discourage the consumption of tobacco, the salient feature of which are as under:-

- (i) prohibition of smoking in a public place ;
- (ii) prohibition of direct and indirect advertisement ;
- (iii) prohibition of sale of tobacco products to minors;
- (iv) Prohibition of sale of tobacco products within 100 yards of educational institutions; and
- (v) Mandatory depiction of specified pictorial health warnings on all tobacco product packs.

The Government of India has launched National Tobacco Control Programme (NTCP) in 42 Districts of 21 States. The proposed national programme broadly includes:

1. Capacity building of the State for the effective implementation of the Tobacco Control Act, 2003 by setting up State Tobacco Control Cells and District Tobacco Control Programme.
2. Training of health workers, school teachers, etc. on ill effects of Tobacco;
3. Mass media/ IEC campaign, to increase awareness regarding ill-effects of tobacco and the provisions under the Law; and
4. Setting up laboratories for tobacco product testing.

Further, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare is conducting the first Global Adult Tobacco Survey – India (GATS). The main aim of GATS is to establish the State-wise prevalence of tobacco use, ascertain levels of awareness/ knowledge about the ill-effects of the tobacco products.

The Government has launched intensive campaign in electronic and print media for raising awareness of public at large regarding harm effects of tobacco (smoking and smokeless forms).