

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

STARRED QUESTION NO:230
ANSWERED ON:11.03.2011
GUTKHA AND PAN MASALA
Shekhar Shri Neeraj;Singh Shri Yashvir

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

- (a) whether harmful ingredients have been found in gutkha and pan masala in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof ;
- (c) the number of persons suffering from diseases owing to consumption of tobacco products including gutkha and pan masala alongwith the deaths occurred therefrom in the country during the last year, State/UT wise;
- (d) the action taken to check the mixing of carcinogenic products in gutkha and pan masala in various States and UTs;and
- (e) the corrective measures taken/proposed to stop the sale of gutkha and pan masala across the country?

Answer

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

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

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO.230 FOR 11TH MARCH, 2011

(a)&(b): As per available evidence, there are more than 3000 chemical ingredients in smokeless tobacco products, such as Gutkha and Khaini. Out of these, 28 chemical ingredients are proven carcinogens. Other carcinogens reportedly present in smokeless tobacco include volatile N-nitrosamines, certain volatile aldehydes, polynuclear aromatic hydrocarbons, certain lactones, urethane, metals, and radioactive polonium.

Results from various studies have found high levels of Nitrosamines in the branded Indian smokeless tobacco products available in the market. A detailed laboratory report on the constituents of different brands of smokeless tobacco available in India had reported substantive quantities of two potent carcinogens (nitrosamines and benzo-a-pyrene) and heavy metals in most of these products

(c) According to the Global Adult Tobacco Survey (GATS), 2010, more than one-third (35%) of adults in India used tobacco in some form or the other. Among them, 21 % adults used only smokeless tobacco, 9 % only smoke, and 5 % smoke as well as smokeless tobacco. As per this report, the estimated number of tobacco users in India was 274.9 million, with 163.7 million users of only smokeless tobacco, 68.9 million only smokers, and 42.3 million users of both smoking and smokeless tobacco.

No exact data on number of deaths occurring from consumption of tobacco products, State & UT wise, is maintained in the Ministry of Health & Family Welfare. However, as per Report on Tobacco Control in India, 2004, an estimated number of 8-9 Lakh people die every year in India due to diseases caused by consumption of tobacco products.

(d)&(e): Prevention of Food Adulteration (PFA) Rules, 1955 prescribes the standards of Pan Masala. The implementation of PFA Act, 1954, and rules made thereunder is entrusted to Food (Health) Authorities of State/UTs Government. In case of samples found not conforming to the standards prescribed under PFA Rules, 1955, legal action is taken by the State Food (Health) Authorities under the PFA Act, 1954.

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 including Pan Masala and Gutkha by imposing various regulatory measures as given under:-

I. Ban on direct/indirect advertisement of tobacco products. (Section -5)

II. Ban on sale of tobacco products to children below 18 year and ban on sale of tobacco products within 100 yards of the educational institution. (Section- 6)III. Specified health warnings on tobacco products. (Section - 7)