

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

STARRED QUESTION NO:271  
ANSWERED ON:19.08.2011  
TOBACCO TESTING LABORATORIES  
Muttemwar Shri Vilas Baburao

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

- (a) whether the Government has set up any mechanism and laid down certain norms and standards as per the global norms in respect of various contents including tar, tobacco, carbon monoxide and nicotine in the domestic cigarettes in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the steps taken by the Government to ensure the compliance of these norms and standards and punish the offenders;
- (d) whether the Government proposes to set up a network of tobacco testing laboratories to trace the level of tar, tobacco, carbon monoxide and nicotine contents in all the tobacco based products; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

**Answer**

THE MINISTER 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. 271 FOR 19TH AUGUST, 2011

(a) & (b): The Government of India enacted a law namely "The Cigarettes and Other Tobacco Products (Prohibition of Advertisement and Regulation of Trade and Commerce, Production, Supply and Distribution) Act, (COTPA), 2003, which mandates that every package of cigarette or any other tobacco products produced, supplied or distributed must indicate the tar and nicotine contents on each cigarettes or other tobacco products along with the maximum permissible limits thereof.

Government is not aware of any global standards fixed in respect of various contents including Tar, Nicotine carbon monoxide etc.. Some countries, including the European Union Countries have established ceiling or maximum limits for tar, nicotine and / or carbon monoxide yields. Central Tobacco Research Institute (Indian Council of Agriculture Research), Rajamundhry, has stated that, in general, the Tar and Nicotine levels in Indian filter cigarettes are in the range of 14 to 15mg and 1.6 to 1.8 mg per cigarette respectively. It is also reported that a few brands, with tar delivers around 10 mg and less than 10 mg/cigarette and nicotine delivers around 1 mg and less than 1 mg per cigarette, are available in the market.

(c) to (e) Section -11 of COTPA, 2003, provides that the government shall identify the laboratory for testing of tar and nicotine contents in cigarettes and any other tobacco products. Government has proposed to set up one Apex/ research laboratory & five testing laboratories under National Tobacco Control Programme for testing of tar and nicotine contents of tobacco products.