

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:784

ANSWERED ON:25.11.2011

BAN ON SMOKELESS TOBACCO PRODUCTS

Bhujbal Shri Sameer ;Rajaram Shri Wakchaure Bhausahab

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

- (a) whether the Government has conducted any survey to ascertain the prevalence of consumption of smokeless tobacco products including gutka and paan masala, particularly among the school and college students across the country;
- (b) if so, the details alongwith the findings thereof;
- (c) whether the Government proposes to put a ban on smokeless tobacco products and has submitted an affidavit for the same;
- (d) if so, the details thereof alongwith the reasons for not proposing a ban on cigarettes and related products;
- (e) the measures taken/proposed by the Government to deter and discourage smokeless tobacco product users from switching to cigarettes; and
- (f) the number of workers, farmers, self employed hawkers and shop keepers likely to be affected on account of the proposed ban on smokeless tobacco products and the plan chalked out to provide them alternative livelihood?

**Answer**

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH & FAMILY WELFARE(SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD)

(a) & (b): The Ministry of Health and Family Welfare has conducted the 'Global Adult Tobacco Survey (GATS) – India, 2010. As per the GATS India Report 34.6% of adults [47.9% of males and 20.3% females] in the age group of 15 years and above consume tobacco in any forms and 26% of the adults consume smokeless tobacco. In absolute numbers there are 163.7 million (16.3 crore) users of smokeless tobacco in India.

The Global Youth Tobacco Survey (GYTS) – India, 2009 conducted among school going youth in the age group of 13-15 years revealed that 12.5% (Boy = 16.2%, Girl = 7.2%) youth used tobacco products other than cigarettes.

(c) & (d): Presently, there is no such proposal to impose a complete ban on smokeless tobacco products. However, as per the notification of the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India dated 5th August, 2011 tobacco and nicotine should not be used as ingredients in any food products.

The Government has filed an affidavit as per the directions of the of the Hon'ble Supreme Court, in the matter of Ankur Gutkha Vs. Indian Asthma Care Society, to support the Health Report on contents and ill – effects on health, submitted earlier.

(e): There is no such proposal to discourage switch over of tobacco users from smokeless tobacco product to cigarettes.

(f): As per WHO report on Bidi Smoking and Public Health, March, 2008, there were about 4.4 million bidi workers in India in 1997. The Government has taken various initiatives for rehabilitation of tobacco growers/ bidi workers as follows:-

1. Ministry of Health & Family Welfare in collaboration with Central Tobacco Research Institute, Ministry of Agriculture launched a pilot initiative of providing alternative cropping system to bidi/chewing tobacco crops in 5 different agroecological sub-regions.
2. Ministry of Labour and Employment has initiated a pilot scheme of providing training to bidi workers so as to provide them alternative sources of employment through viable sources of livelihood. These trainings have been conducted in 6 regions of the country namely Bangalore, Nagpur, Ajmer, Jabalpur, Hyderabad, Kolkata.
3. Ministry of Rural Development has also written to the Chief Secretaries of 10 States to work out special projects for developing alternative livelihood options for beedi rollers under Swarnjayanti Gram Swarozgar Yojana (SGSY) and other similar schemes.