

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:911

ANSWERED ON:25.11.2011

SMOKING AND NON-SMOKING ZONES

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

- (a) whether cigarettes are more harmful than smokeless tobacco products and cause more deaths in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the reasons for mild pictorial warning notified for cigarettes in comparison to less harmful smokeless tobacco products;
- (c) the details of the provisions including legal in force to curb smoking in the country;
- (d) the extent to which these provisions have helped to reduce smoking in the country; and
- (e) the steps taken/proposed to restrict smoking by earmarking smoking zones and making public places such as hotels, clubs, restaurants etc. non-smoking zones?

Answer

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

(a) to (b) There is no safe level of nicotine and tobacco use in all forms (Smoking and Smokeless) is harmful. As per the Report on Tobacco Control in India, 2004, approx. 8-9 Lakh persons die annually due to tobacco attributable diseases in the country.

The Govt. of India vide its notification no. GSR 417 (E) dated 27th May, 2011 has notified the new pictorial warnings which will come into force from 1st December, 2011. These warnings depict the leading disease caused by the use of smoking and smokeless tobacco i.e. lung disease and oral cancer.

(c) to (e) The Govt. of India has notified the Rules related to 'Prohibition of Smoking in Public Places-2008' which came into force from 2nd October, 2008. As per the extant Rules smoking is prohibited in all public places including private workplaces. However, hotels having thirty or more rooms or restaurant having seating capacity of thirty persons and airports may create a smoking areas/space. These rules have come into effect from 2nd October 2008 and it will be too early to predict any reduction in smoking and as the State Governments have just geared up to implement these Rules and some of them have formed raiding squads and conducting raids at regular intervals at various public places.

The Ministry has also formulated step by step guidelines to facilitate the implementation of these Rules. Further, in order to create awareness on harmful effects of second hand smoke and the Smokefree Rules dedicated spot/public service advertisements has also been developed and aired.