

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3827

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EVALUATION OF NATIONAL TOBACCOCONTROL PROGRAMME

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

- (a) whether the Government is implementing the National Tobacco Control Programme (NTCP) across the country;
- (b) if so, the present status of implementation of NTCP in the country, State/UT-wise;
- (c) whether the Government has done any monitoring and evaluation/assessment of the above programme at the national level;
- (d) if so, the details along with the outcome thereof; and
- (e) the details of the shortcomings noticed and measures taken/proposed to plug the loopholes in implementation of NTCP?

**Answer**

THE MINISTER HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD)

(a) & (b): The National Tobacco Control Programme (NTCP) has been launched in 42 Districts of 21 States to implement various provisions under anti-tobacco law (COTPA 2003) and to create awareness about the harmful effects of tobacco consumption. The list of districts covered under the programme is annexed. The programme broadly envisages-

I. Mass media/Public awareness campaigns aimed at behavioral change.

II. Establishment of tobacco product testing laboratories, to build regulatory capacity, as required under anti-tobacco law (COTPA, 2003).

III. Research & Training – on alternate crops and livelihoods, in co-ordination with other nodal Ministries.

IV. Monitoring and Evaluation including surveillance e.g. Adult Tobacco Survey.

V. Dedicated tobacco control cells in the states and districts for effective implementation and monitoring of Anti Tobacco Initiatives.

VI. Training of health and social workers, NGOs, school teachers etc.

VII. Setting up tobacco cessation centres

(c) to (e): A review meeting of the State/ District Nodal Officers was held in January 2012 to monitor the progress of NTCP.

The major challenges faced in the programme are as follows:

(i) There are multiple litigations challenging the provisions of the anti-tobacco law and rules notified there-under.

(ii) In order to implement various provisions under anti-tobacco law, a state level enforcement mechanism needs to be put in place, which includes opening separate head of account, printing of challan books and constituting a raiding mechanism etc. Some of the states have been slow on this front.

(iii) In some of the states and districts, the manpower under the programme has not been recruited by the concerned states for various reasons, including low remuneration under the programme.

(iv) A major challenge in the implementation of COTPA comes from the tobacco farmers and bidi rollers. There is a need to work out effective strategies to provide alternative viable livelihood options to these farmers and bidi rollers through the programmes of Ministry of Rural Development, Ministry of Agriculture, Ministry of Labour etc.

(v) The pilot phase of the programme has been launched only in 2 districts each in 21 states, and, therefore, does not receive the desired priority and support at the state level in some cases.

(vi) The state focal point officers under the programme are entrusted with other programmes also and are not able to devote enough

time. There is a need to integrate components of the programme with the National Programme on NCD, since tobacco is one of the main risk factors for NCDs (Non-Communicable Diseases).

(vii) The components of the programme at district level including cessation services have not been implemented or only partly implemented in many states.

(viii) The utilization of budget and submission of utilization certificates under the programme is not satisfactory in many states.

The Ministry of Health & Family Welfare has taken and is contemplating following steps to address the challenges under the programme:

# The Ministry is in touch with Ministry of Law and its legal counsels to settle the litigations.

# Regular review workshops have been organized for the state nodal officers to sort out the impediments and bottle necks faced in the implementation of NTCP.

# Regional level trainings are planned for capacity building in the states and districts.

# Communications have been addressed to the state Officials (Chief Secretary/ Health Secretary/ Transport Commissioner/ Director General of Police/ Finance Secretary/ Secretary, Panchayati Raj) to implement various provisions under COTPA, monitor the same through monthly crime review meetings and for raising of taxes on tobacco and tobacco products.

# Guidelines on implementation of anti-tobacco law have been developed to facilitate the states in implementing the various provisions.

# Communications have been sent to different Ministries like Ministry of Agriculture and Ministry of Rural Development to workout special programmes for tobacco growers/workers under their ongoing schemes.

# Ministry proposes to expand the coverage of NTCP to all the districts of India in a phased manner during the 12th 5-year Plan, with better manpower, legal and infrastructural support, and online monitoring.

# Ministry is proposing to integrate components of the programme with the National Programme of NCD with a dedicated focal point officer at the state and district level.

# Ministry proposes to strengthen the toll free helpline for on-line reporting and dissemination of information relating to violations of the anti-tobacco law.

# Ministry is contemplating setting up a quit helpline at the national level for tobacco users.