

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

STARRED QUESTION NO:335
ANSWERED ON:27.04.2012
SOLIDARITY TOBACCO CONTRIBUTION
Kumar Shri Kaushalendra;Ramkishun Shri

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

- (a) whether the Government has taken note of the discussion paper prepared by the World Health Organization on the Solidarity Tobacco Contribution (STC);
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government proposes to levy a special cess on cigarettes and other tobacco products so as to make contribution to the proposed STC;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the manner in which the said fund is likely to be utilised in the campaign against tobacco?

Answer

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

- (a) Yes, Madam.
- (b) The concept of a Solidarity Tobacco Contribution (STC) has been raised in the larger discussion surrounding the issue of tobacco control. The STC concept paper suggests that any country may decide on a voluntary basis to add a small micro levy on tobacco products as part of its national taxes.
- (c) No, Madam.
- (d) Does not arise
- (e) Does not arise.