

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1343

ANSWERED ON:17.08.2012

BAN ON TOBACCO PRODUCTS

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

- (a) whether the Government has conducted any study/survey on adverse health affects of smoking and consumption of Gutkha, Pan Masala, Zarda and other chewable products containing tobacco and nicotine in the country;
- (b) if so, the details along with the outcome thereof indicating the estimated number of people suffering from diseases attributing to tobacco use and deaths reported therefrom in the country during the last three years and the current year so far, State/UT-wise;
- (c) the measures taken and guidelines issued to various States to discourage the smoking and consumption of products containing tobacco and nicotine in the country;
- (d) whether manufacturing, storage, distribution or sale of Gutkha, Pan Masala, Zarda or other chewable products containing tobacco and nicotine have been recently banned in certain States; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof along with the steps taken/proposed by the Government to enforce complete ban on consumption of such products across the country?

Answer

MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI GHULAM NABIAZAD)

(a & b) Yes. As per the directions of Hon'ble Supreme Court in the matter of Ankur Gutkha Vs. Indian Asthama Society (SLP 16308/2007) Ministry of Health & Family Welfare with support of National Institute of Public Health undertook a comprehensive analysis and study of the contents of gutkha, tobacco, pan masala and similar articles manufactured in the country and harmful effects of consumption of such articles. The Report is in two parts:-

1. Analysis of the scientific literature on the contents of gutkha, tobacco, pan masala and similar articles manufactured in the country, and harmful effects of consumption of such articles.
2. Analysis of the scientific literature on the harmful effects of consumption of Areca-Nut or Betel Quid or Supari.

Moreover, as per the report entitled 'Evidence assessment: Harmful effects of consumption of gutkha, tobacco, pan masala and similar articles manufactures in India' by National Institute of Health and Family Welfare – 2010; there are about 3095 chemicals found in smokeless tobacco products (including gutkha), among them 28 are proven carcinogen. The major and most abundant group of carcinogens is the tobacco-specific N-nitrosamines (TSNA) and no safe level of this chemical has been ascribed so far. Other carcinogens reportedly present in smokeless tobacco include volatile N-nitrosamines, certain volatile aldehydes, polynuclear aromatic hydrocarbons, certain lactones, urethane, metals, and radioactive polonium.

As per the report of Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR), nearly 50% of cancers in males and 25% in females in India and more than 80% of all the oral cancer are directly attributed to tobacco use.

As per the Report on Tobacco Control in India, 2004, nearly 8-9 lakhs people die annually in India due to tobacco attributable diseases and the state-wise estimated number of deaths in 2011 (1,43,141) due to cancers associated with use of tobacco, based on the data of NCRP (2006-08) and using the Mortality-Incidence ratio of Population Based Cancer Registry, Mumbai, is enclosed in Annexed.

(c) Requisite communications have been sent to various departments of the State/ UTs Government including Home Secretary, Director General of Police, Transport Commissioners, Panchayati Raj Institutions to sensitize them about the harmful effects of tobacco consumption and request them to ensure effective compliance of the provisions made under Tobacco Control Act (COTPA), 2003. Guidelines for implementation of Section- 4, 6 & 7 of COTPA, 2003 have also been sent to all the State/ UTs to facilitate them in implementing the provisions under COTPA. Public Notices on various sections of COTPA have been published in leading national and regional dailies from time to time.

National Level Mass Media Campaign: Various anti-tobacco IEC materials have been developed and disseminated widely through radio, TV for increasing public awareness on the risks of tobacco use.

(d) & (e) The Food Safety and Standards Authority of India, Ministry of Health, has notified the Food Safety and Standards (Prohibition and Restriction on sales) Regulation, 2011, which has come into force on 05.08.2011. The regulation mandates that tobacco and nicotine cannot be used as ingredients in any food products. Hence, sale of food product having nicotine and tobacco as its ingredients is prohibited.

The states of Madhya Pradesh, Kerala, Bihar, Rajasthan, Maharashtra, Haryana, Chhatisgarh, and Jharkhand have implemented the aforesaid provision under FSSAI regulation.

Ministry of Health & Family Welfare had written to the Government of Bihar, Odisha, Uttar Pradesh, Assam, Andhra Pradesh, Jharkhand, Maharashtra, Rajasthan, Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand, and Jharkhand for taking further action in compliance of the FSSAI regulation.