GOVERNMENT OF INDIA HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2230 ANSWERED ON:24.08.2012 CONSUMPTION OF TOBACCO PRODUCTS

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

- (a) the measures taken by the Government to discourage smoking and consumption of Gutkha, Pan Masala and other such products which causes cancer in the country;
- (b) the total expenditure incurred on the anti-tobacco measures and campaigns in the country during each of the last three years and the current year, so far, State/UTwise;
- (c) whether there is a rise in the number of people, particularly women and children addicted to cigarettes and other tobacco products despite the anti- tobacco measures and campaigns;
- (d) if so, the details thereof along with the reasons therefor; and
- (e) the corrective measures taken/ proposed by the Government in this regard?

Answer

MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI GHULAM NABIAZAD)

- (a) Government of India enacted the Anti Tobacco law titled 'Cigarettes and other Tobacco Products (Prohibition of Advertisement and Regulation of Trade and Commerce, Production, Supply and Distribution) Act, (COTPA) 2003' in order to protect the youth and masses from the adverse harm effects of tobacco usage, second hand smoke (SHS) and discourag the consumption of tobacco product including Gutkha and Pan Masala. The specific provisions of the Anti Tobacco Law include:
- 1. Prohibition of smoking in a public place (section 4)
- 2. Prohibition of direct and indirect advertisement of cigarette and other tobacco products (section 5)
- 3. Prohibition of sale of cigarette and other tobacco products to a person below the age of eighteen years [section 6(a)].
- 4. Prohibition of sale of tobacco products near the educational 6(b)].
- 5. Mandatory depiction of statutory warnings (including pictorial warnings) on tobacco packs (Section 7)

Rules relating to aforesaid Sections of the Act, 2003, have been notified and are implemented.

Further, Food Safety and Standards Authority of India, Ministry of Health, notified the Food Safety and Standards (Prohibition and Restriction on sales) Regulation, 2011, which has come into force on 05.08.2011. The regulation 2.3.4 mandates prohibition and restriction on sale of food products having tobacco and nicotine as its ingredients. Hence food product having nicotine and tobacco as its ingredients is prohibited. National level anti-tobacco mass media has been aired though electronic as well as print media for creating awareness about harmful effects of tobacco consumption.:

(b) The details of expenditure incurred on the anti-tobacco measures and campaigns in the country during the last three years and the current year are given as under:-

Year Budget Estimate Revised Estimate Expenditure

2009-10 Rs. 30.00 Cr. Rs. 17.00 Cr. Rs. 16.67 Cr

2012-13 Rs. 42.00 Cr - Rs. 0.93 Cr.

The funds released to State Government for carrying out the various activities under National Tobacco Control Programme are annexed.

- (c & d) At present, there is no comparable set of data to prove this, however, as per the Global Adult Tobacco Survey, India (GATS), 2010 more than one third (34.6%) of adults (15 years and older) in India use tobacco in some form or the other. The estimated number of tobacco users in India is 27.49 crores, with 16.37 crore users of only smokeless tobacco, 6.89 crores only smokers and 4.23 crore users of both smoking and smokeless forms of tobacco. The prevalence of overall tobacco use among males is 48% and that among females is 20%. Further, as per India Global Youth Tobacco Survey (GYTS) 2009, 14.6% of the youth in the age group of 13-15 years consume some forms of tobacco (19% are boys and 8.3% are girls). The next round of GATS and GYTS is proposed in 2014-15, to throw up comparative figures.
- (e) The National Tobacco Control Programme (NTCP) has been launched in 42 Districts of 21 States in order to implement various provisions under Tobacco Control Act (COTPA), 2003 and to create awareness about the harmful effects of tobacco consumption. The programme broadly envisages, at national and state level:
- i. Public awareness/mass media campaigns for awareness building & for behavioral change,
- ii. Establishment of tobacco product testing laboratories, to build regulatory capacity, as required under COTPA, 2003.
- iii. Mainstream Research & Training on alternate crops and livelihoods with other nodal Ministries,
- iv. Monitoring and Evaluation including surveillance e.g. Adult Tobacco Survey,
- v. Dedicated state/ district tobacco control cells 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

Requisite communications have been sent to various departments of the State/ UTs Government including Home Secretary, DGPs, 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 under Section- 4, 6 & 7 of COTPA, 2003 have also been sent to all the State/ UTs to facilitate implementation of the provisions under COTPA and the rules made thereunder.

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