

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

STARRED QUESTION NO:34
ANSWERED ON:23.11.2012
TESTING LABORATORIES FOR TOBACCO PRODUCTS
Panda Shri Baijayant

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

- (a) whether the Government has any mechanism for regular testing of various contents in cigarettes, gutkha, pan masala and other tobacco products in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government proposes to set up research and testing laboratories under the National Tobacco Control Programme (NTCP) for testing of various contents of tobacco and related products in the country; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof along with the locations identified therefor, State/UT-wise?

Answer

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

(a) to (d): A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 34 FOR 23-11-2012

(a) & (b) The legislative framework for testing the contents of tobacco products is laid down in the Cigarettes and other Tobacco Products (Prohibition of Advertisement and Regulation of Trade and Commerce, Production, Supply and Distribution) Act, 2003. (COTPA). Section 7 (5) of COTPA lays down as under

"No person shall, directly or indirectly, produce, supply or distribute cigarettes or any other tobacco products unless every package of cigarettes or any other tobacco products produced, supplied or distributed by him indicates thereon, or on its label, the nicotine and tar contents on each cigarette or as the case may be on other tobacco products along with the maximum permissible limits thereof."

However, the said section has not been notified in the absence of adequate testing facilities, since only limited testing facilities are available with the Food and Drug laboratories.

(c) & (d) To augment the testing facilities, this Ministry has decided to build capacity for testing tobacco products, under the National Tobacco Control Programme. For this purpose, the Ministry has identified one apex/research at National Institute of Biologicals, Noida and four regional testing laboratories as follows:

1. Regional Drug Testing Laboratory, Chandigarh.
2. Central Drug Testing Laboratory, Mumbai
3. Central Drug Testing Laboratory, Chennai.
4. Food Research and Standardization Laboratory, Ghaziabad.