

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

STARRED QUESTION NO:361

ANSWERED ON:22.03.2013

NATIONAL TOBACCO CONTROL PROGRAMME

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

- (a) the details of the activities envisaged and taken under the National Tobacco Control Programme (NTCP), State/UT-wise;
- (b) the assistance provided to the States/UTs under NTCP and the achievements made thereunder during each of the last three years and the current year, State/UT-wise;
- (c) whether the Government has reviewed/assessed the implementation of NTCP in various States;
- (d) if so, the details and the outcome thereof including the shortcomings noticed and the measures taken/proposed to plug the loopholes in implementation of NTCP, and
- (e) the further steps taken/proposed by the Government for effective implementation of NTCP and enforce complete ban on manufacturing and marketing of tobacco products across all the States/UTs in the country?

Answer

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

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

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO.361 FOR 22ND MARCH, 2013

Pilot phase of the National Tobacco Control Programme (NTCP) was launched by Government of India in 2007-08 in 9 states covering 18 districts. The programme was up-scaled to additionally cover 12 more states and 24 more districts in 2008-09. List of districts and states covered under the programme is at Annexure I. State-wise allocation of funds is at Annexure-II.

Key activities include

- (i) creating awareness about the harmful effects of tobacco consumption,
- (ii) reducing the production and supply of tobacco products,
- (iii) ensuring effective implementation of the provisions made under "The Cigarettes and Other Tobacco Products (Prohibition of Advertisement and Regulation of Trade and Commerce, Production, Supply and Distribution) Act, 2003" (COTPA) and
- (iv) helping people quit tobacco use through Tobacco Cessation Centres.

At state level, the programme includes

- (i) Dedicated tobacco control cells for effective implementation and monitoring of Anti Tobacco Initiatives in the state and
- (ii) Sensitization of law enforcers / stakeholders from different departments on their role in implementation of tobacco control laws and other measures for tobacco control.

At district level, the activities include

- (i) Training of health and social workers, NGOs, school teachers etc.,
- (ii) Information, Education and Communication for generating awareness against tobacco use,
- (iii) School programmes,
- (iv) Setting up Tobacco Cessation Centres and
- (v) Monitoring of tobacco control laws.

Some of the key achievements include setting up state and district level steering committees, school programmes in the NTCP districts, Information, education & communication campaigns, training and advocacy workshops and establishment of tobacco cessation clinics.

Evaluation of the programme has been initiated through the Public Health Foundation of India (PHFI). In the course of review, the following issues have emerged for action, which are sought to be addressed through the 12th plan proposals for the programme:

- (i) There is a need to expand coverage beyond 42 districts and 21 states.

(ii) There is a need for stronger convergence with the programmes for non-communicable diseases, as tobacco is a big risk factor for such diseases.

(iii) Capacity of the states needs to be built for effective implementation of COTPA, 2003.

(iv) Information, education and communication activities need to be intensified.

(v) Some important provisions of the anti-tobacco laws have been challenged in the courts of law and are sub-judice. The Ministry is attending to these litigations with due diligence.

Under the Food Safety & Standards Act, 2006, the Food Safety and Standards (Prohibition and Restrictions on Sales) Regulations have been notified, which lay down that tobacco and nicotine shall not be used as ingredients in any food products.

In pursuance thereof, 28 States/UT's have already issued orders banning manufacture, sale and storage of Gutka and Pan Masala containing tobacco or nicotine.

Ministry of Health & Family Welfare took up the issue of increasing excise duty on tobacco products with the Finance Ministry, which has resulted in the proposed increase of 18% in the excise duty on cigarettes, cigars, cheroots and cigarillos in the current year's budget proposals. Ministry has also written to the states about the need to increase VAT on tobacco products. States such as Rajasthan, Bihar, Assam, Jammu & Kashmir, Maharashtra have notified increase in VAT on tobacco products.