

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2057

ANSWERED ON:08.03.2013

ANTI TOBACCO MEASURES

Adhalrao Patil Shri Shivaji; Adsul Shri Anandrao Vithoba; Dharmshi Shri Babar Gajanan; Owaisi Shri Asaduddin; Reddy Shri Magunta Srinivasulu; Yadav Shri Dharmendra

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

- (a) whether the World Health Organisation (WHO) had imposed a fine on India for insufficient anti-tobacco measures in 2011;
- (b) if so, the details along with the facts in this regard;
- (c) the corrective measures taken/ proposed by the Government being a signatory of the WHO Framework Convention on Tobacco Control (FCTC);
- (d) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to certain studies/reports which suggest that increase in price/tax of/on tobacco products is likely to reduce their consumption and also premature tobacco-related deaths in the country; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof along with the action taken/proposed by the Government in this regard during the 12th Five Year Plan?

Answer

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

(a) to (c). No. WHO is an inter-Government Agency and the United Nations Agency on Health. Its mandate is to support the health initiatives of governments including for tobacco control. WHO has been extending technical support to the Government of India in implementation of the WHO-Framework Convention on Tobacco Control.

(d) & (e) Yes. The Government of India is aware of reports and studies which suggest that increase in price/tax of/on tobacco products is likely to reduce their consumption and also premature tobacco-related deaths in the country.

Ministry of Health & Family Welfare has suggested to the Department of Revenue (Ministry of Finance) to increase taxes on all tobacco products and also to impose 'sin tax' on tobacco products, the proceeds of which can be used for tobacco control.

The Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, along with WHO Country Office for India, also organized a 'National Consultation on Economics of Tobacco' in December 2012.