

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3571
ANSWERED ON:11.12.2009
SMOKING SCENES IN FILMS AND SERIALS
Rawat Shri Ashok Kumar

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

- (a) whether the Government proposes to issue guidelines for compliance of the Cigarettes and Other Tobacco Products Act, 2003 (COTPA) before permitting telecast of films and television serials showing smoking scenes;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the progress made on the issue relating to ban on telecast of smoking scenes in films and serials?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH & FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD)

(a) to (c): This Ministry has notified "The Cigarettes and Other Tobacco Products (Prohibition of Advertisement and Regulation of Trade and Commerce, Production, Supply and Distribution) Amendment Rules, 2006 vide G.S.R. No.656 (E) dated 20-10-2006" wherein guidelines have, inter alia, been laid down banning display of tobacco products or their use by an individual or a person or a character in films and television programme, with certain exemptions. The rules are yet to be implemented as the subject matter was subjudice due to a court case filed against the aforesaid Rules in Delhi High Court. This Ministry has filed Special Leave Petition in the Hon'ble Supreme Court against the order of the Hon'ble Delhi High Court, which had struck down the relevant provision of the Rules pertaining to telecast of films and television serials showing smoking scenes. Hon'ble Supreme Court has stayed the order of Delhi High Court on 2.04.2009. Action is in progress to implement the aforesaid Rules dated 20-10-2006.