

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

STARRED QUESTION NO:404

ANSWERED ON:21.02.2014

CONTENTS IN TOBACCO PRODUCTS

Adsul Shri Anandrao Vithoba; Dharmshi Shri Babar Gajanan

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

- (a) whether the Government has laid down any provision in the Tobacco Control Act of 2003 for depiction of tobacco /nicotine contents and other ingredients on packages of cigarettes and other tobacco products being marketed in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government has notified the above provisions of the Act;
- (d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor; and
- (e) the steps taken/proposed by the Government to make it compulsory for manufacturers of tobacco products to depict the contents/ingredients on packages of cigarettes and other tobacco products?

**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. 404 FOR 21ST FEBRUARY, 2014

(a) to (d): 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 for tobacco products, as currently only limited testing facilities are available with the Food and Drug laboratories. Moreover, the extant provisions of display of only nicotine and tar on tobacco product packages is self-limiting, as in addition to nicotine and tar, there are a large number of chemicals and additives/intoxicants in tobacco as well as second hand smoke (SHS) that are harmful to health. There is no internationally accepted standard of any minimum (safe) or maximum permissible limit for tar and nicotine content in tobacco products. As tar and nicotine, ab initio, are harmful in any quantity whether it is smoking or smokeless forms of tobacco. Hence, these provisions under COTPA will need to be aligned to the latest scientific and research based evidence.

(e): The following steps have been taken by Ministry of Health and Family Welfare to make compulsory provisions for manufacturers of tobacco products to depict the contents/ingredients on packages of cigarettes and other tobacco products

1. Setting up tobacco product testing laboratories is one of the key national level activities under the National Tobacco Control Programme (NTCP). EFC in its meeting held on 12.12.2013 under the Chairmanship of Secretary (H & FW) has approved the NTCP. The EFC has been duly endorsed by Hon'ble Minister of Health and Family Welfare and is currently in the Finance Ministry for endorsement of Finance Minister.

2. Ministry of Health & Family Welfare is creating the requisite institutional capacity by identifying existing laboratories whose capacity will be augmented to test tobacco products. The laboratories identified are:

Apex Laboratory – (1)

i. National Institute of Biologicals (NIB), Noida.

Regional Tobacco Product Testing labs – (4)

i. Central Drugs Testing Laboratory, (CDTL) Hyderabad.

ii. Regional Drugs Testing Laboratory, (RDTL) Chandigarh

iii. Central Drugs Testing Laboratory, (CDTL) Mumbai and

iv. Food Research and Standardization Laboratory (FRSL) Ghaziabad.

3. A team of experts from MOHFW and Central Design Bureau (CDB) has been constituted to visit the identified labs to take a stock of the readiness of the labs and help them identify the spaces available, help in the designs and also solve all pending issues.

4. The team first visited Central Tobacco Research Institute [CTRI] to study the tobacco testing laboratory. Thereafter, teams have visited the following laboratories:

- a) Regional Drug Testing Laboratory, Chandigarh
- b) Central Drug Testing Laboratory, Mumbai
- c) Food Research Standardisation Laboratory, Ghaziabad
- d) National Institute of Biologicals, Noida

5. The Technical Specification Committee has been reconstituted under the Chairpersonship of Special DGHS, Dr. S.Y. Kothari, to look into the specifications of the equipments to be procured for testing of tobacco products.

6. The Technical Specification Committee met 5 times (11.3.13, 16.4.13, 17.5.13, 17.6.13, 23.12.13) for finalising the specification of the identified equipments.

7. The Committee further met again on 15.1.14 to examine the matter in the light of the comments obtained from prospective bidders in the pre-bid process. Hence, the technical specification committee is in the process of finalisation of the technical specifications of the equipments for the Tobacco Testing Laboratories.