

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4395  
ANSWERED ON:19.12.2014  
ALTERNATIVES TO TOBACCO GROWING  
Kateel Shri Nalin Kumar

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

- (a) the present status of proposal to ban tobacco farming and consumption of tobacco in various forms in the country, State/UT-wise;
- (b) whether the Government has received any representation from various quarters regarding the revoking of proposed ban on tobacco farming and also sale of loose tobacco;
- (c) if so, the details thereof along with the action taken/proposed to be taken by the Government thereon;
- (d) whether the Government is working on economically sustainable alternatives to tobacco growing in consultation with various stakeholders, and if so, the details thereof indicating the findings of the pilot project for encouraging alternative crops to tobacco in the country; and
- (e) the other measures being taken by the Government to assist and protect the tobacco and areca nut farmers?

**Answer**

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI JAGAT PRAKASH NADDA)

(a): There is no such proposal with this Ministry to ban tobacco farming.

The Food Safety and Standards (Prohibition and Restrictions on Sales) Regulations, 2011 dated 1st August 2011, issued under the Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006 lays down that tobacco and nicotine shall not be used as ingredients in any food products.

(b) & (c): The Government has received representations regarding revoking proposed ban on sale of loose tobacco products.

The issues raised in the representations and the views of the various stakeholders are under the process of consultation.

(d) & (e): In 2008 the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare provided support to Central Tobacco Research Institute (CTRI), Ministry of Agriculture for launching a pilot project on Alternative Crops to Bidi and Chewing tobacco in different Agro-Ecological Zones of the Country. The findings of the pilot project are at ANNEX.

The Ministry of Health & Family Welfare has taken up with Ministry of Agriculture and Commerce the issue of development of schemes to encourage farmers for alternative farming.

An Inter-ministerial Committee of Secretaries has been constituted in November, 2014 at the national level under the chairpersonship of the Cabinet Secretary having representatives from 12 different Ministries/Departments, including Ministries of Agriculture and Commerce to review and develop a comprehensive policy on tobacco and tobacco related issues.