

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:757

ANSWERED ON:24.07.2015

Depiction of Ingredients on Tobacco Packaging

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

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

- (a) whether the Government has laid down provisions for depiction of tobacco/ nicotine contents and other ingredients on packages of cigarettes and other tobacco products being marketed in the country and if so, the details thereof;
- (b) whether the Government has notified the aforesaid provisions, if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether the existing infrastructure to test tobacco products are adequate, if so, the details thereof and if not, the steps being taken by the Government for creating the requisite institutional capacity for testing tobacco products in the country, State/UT-wise; and
- (d) the steps taken/proposed by the Government for compulsory depiction of contents/ingredients on packages of cigarettes and other tobacco products?

Answer

(a) to (d): Section 7 (5) of the Cigarettes and other Tobacco Products (Prohibition of Advertisement and Regulation of Trade and Commerce, Production, Supply and Distribution) Act, 2003 (COTPA) provides for the following

"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. Only limited testing facilities are available to test tobacco products with the Food and Drug laboratories.

The following steps have been undertaken by the Government for depiction of contents /ingredients on tobacco product packages:

- 1) Five existing labs (1 Apex and 4 regional testing labs) have been identified whose capacity will be augmented to undertake the task of tobacco product testing. The details of the labs are at ANNEXURE.
- 2) Technical Specification Committee has been constituted and it has finalised the technical specifications of the major equipments for the labs for central procurement.
- 3) An expert team from the Ministry of Health & Family Welfare including a Central Design Bureau Architect has visited the identified laboratories and prepared recommended out-lay designs.
- 4) A project proposal identifying the equipments, manpower and budget requirements and activities therein to be taken up for the project etc has been finalised.
- 5) The Ministry constituted a Committee in 2014 to review and suggest amendments to the Cigarettes and other Tobacco Products (Prohibition of Advertisement and Regulation of Trade and Commerce, Production, Supply and Distribution) Act, 2003 (COTPA). The Committee has recommended the following:

- a) Do away with the mandatory provision of depiction of tar and nicotine contents with maximum permissible limit on packages of tobacco products.
- b) replace the term nicotine and tar with "constituents and emissions".
- c) Disclose periodically and upon request the constituents and emissions on tobacco products to government in a prescribed manner.