

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

STARRED QUESTION NO:460

ANSWERED ON:08.08.2014

BAN ON FLAVOURED ARECA NUT AND TOBACCO PRODUCTS

Patil Shri Vijaysinh Mohite;Sule Smt. Supriya Sadanand

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

- (a) Whether consumption of areca nut reportedly has adverse impact on health and if so, the details thereof;
- (b) The provisions laid down by the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) with regard to gutka, pan masala and other sweet/scented/flavoured areca nut products and chewing tobacco in the country;
- (c) Whether marketing and consumption of the aforesaid areca nut products and chewing tobacco have been reported from certain parts of the country and if so, the details thereof, State/UT-wise;
- (d) Whether certain States/UTs have imposed ban on the marketing and consumption of the flavoured areca nut products and chewing tobacco, if so, the details thereof and the steps being taken by the Government to ban the same throughout the country; and
- (e) The steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to regulate/curb the advertisements of such harmful products in the country?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. HARSH VARDHAN)

(a) to (e): A statement is laid on the Table of the House STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 460 FOR 8th AUGUST, 2014

a): The National Institute of Health and Family Welfare's (N1HFW) Health Report on the contents of gutkha, tobacco, pan masala and similar articles manufactured in the country and harmful effects of consumption of such articles and the results from multiple studies have shown strong and consistent evidence of arecanut/betel nut being a significant risk factor for development of cancers of oral cavity, oesophagus and liver. The risk of these cancers is found to increase with increased duration and frequency of areca/betel nut usage. Evidence has also been found for the development of oral pre-malignant lesions with a high risk of malignant transformation, while few studies have reported close association between areca nut usage and pharyngeal cancer.

Strong and consistent evidence was found for a significant association between areca/betel nut usage and peri-odontal diseases, cardiovascular diseases, metabolic abnormalities (including obesity and diabetes), and adverse birth outcomes. Though limited evidence is available for other diseases/conditions, results were consistent in implicating its use with increased risk of all-cause mortality, and for causing liver cirrhosis, chronic kidney disease, urinary stone disease, addiction, and nervous system diseases.

b): Regulation 2.11.5 of Food Safety and Standards (Food Products Standards and Food Additives) regulations, 2011 prescribes the standards for Pan Masala.

Regulation 2.4.5 (30) and (31) of Food Safety and Standards (packaging and labelling) regulations, 2011 prescribes the labelling requirements of Pan Masala and Supari.

Regulation 2.3.4 of Food Safety and Standards (Prohibition and Restriction on Sales) regulations, 2011 prohibits the use of tobacco and nicotine as ingredient in any food products.

c): At present, no state-wise data is available with respect to the marketing and consumption of areca nut products and chewing tobacco.

d): The Ministry had written letters to States/UTs in May, 2012, August 2012 and November 2012 with a request to issue necessary orders at the state level to implement and enforce the provisions of law as laid down in the Food Safety & Standards Act, 2006 and the regulation issued there-under. Pursuant to this, so far, 34 States/Union Territories have issued orders for implementation of the Food Safety Regulations banning manufacture, sale and storage of Gutka and Pan Masala containing tobacco or nicotine. (Madhya Pradesh, Kerala, Bihar, Himachal Pradesh, Rajasthan, Maharashtra, Mizoram, Chandigarh, Chattisgarh, Jharkhand, Haryana, Punjab, Delhi, Gujarat, Uttar Pradesh, Nagaland, Andaman & Nicobar, Daman & Diu, Dadra and Nagar Haveli, Uttarakhand, Odisha, Andhra Pradesh, Goa, Sikkim, Manipur, Arunachal Pradesh, Jammu & Kashmir, Assam, West Bengal, Tripura, Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, Puducherry and Meghalaya). States/UTs such as Maharashtra, Himachal Pradesh, Manipur, Dadra & Nagar Haveli, have also prohibited manufacturing, distribution and sale of zarda or other processed/flavoured chewable products having tobacco and nicotine

as ingredients. The Government of Maharashtra has further prohibited, under section 30 of the Food Safety & Standards Act 2006, arecanut (betelnut) which is either flavoured, scented or mixed with any of the said additives, and whether going by the name or form of gutka, pan masala, flavoured/scented tobacco, flavoured/scented supari. kharra, or otherwise by whatsoever name called.

e): Section 30-31 of Food Safety and Standards (Packaging and Labelling) Regulations, 2011 issued under the Food Safety and Standards Act 2006, states that every package of Supari or Pan Masala and advertisement relating thereto, shall carry the warning, 'Chewing of Pan Masala or Supari is injurious to health'.

Advertisement of tobacco products is prohibited under Section - 5 of the Cigarettes and other Tobacco Products (Prohibition of Advertisement and Regulation of Trade and Commerce, Production, supply and Distribution) Act, 2003, except at or inside the points of sale and through the tobacco product packages.