

Title: Need to bring a legislation banning consumption of tobacco and its products in the country.

SHRI S.K. KHARVENTHAN (PALANI): Sir, I wish to bring to your kind notice regarding the increased tobacco consumption by our youth and also by children. Tobacco, as you are aware, contains many harmful substances, one of which is ammonia and tobacco which is available in many forms in the market viz., gutkha, pan masalas, etc. Gutkha is available in every nook and corner of the country in attractively packed pouches.

In a survey report, it has been stated that four million children below the age of 15 years use tobacco regularly and some of them consume 5 to 15 pockets of gutkha every day. This will lead to mouth cancer in the long run.

Many of the States have already banned tobacco and its products. However, it is another matter that tobacco products are consumed in those States also illegally. But in majority of the States it is not banned and is freely available even for children.

I request the Hon'ble Minister of Health & Family Welfare to prevail upon the Government and to bring a legislation to ban tobacco and its products immediately from the whole of the besides its proper implementation.