

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH RESEARCH**

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1338
TO BE ANSWERED ON 22ND DECEMBER, 2017**

BANNING SUPARI (ARECA NUT)

1338. SHRI OM PRAKASH YADAV:

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

- (a) whether supari (areca nut) causes cancer, sub mucus fibrosis and a number of other health problems; and
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken to prevent the use of supari?

**ANSWER
THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND
FAMILY WELFARE
(SMT. ANUPRIYA PATEL)**

(a) & (b): Yes, consumption of supari causes periodontitis, buccal mucositis, sub mucous fibrosis and leucoplakia, leading to oral squamous cell cancer. The regular use of areca nut stains the mucosa, gums and teeth.

To prevent use of supari, all States/Union Territories have issued orders for implementation of the Food Safety and Standards (Prohibition and Restrictions on Sales), Regulations, 2011, banning manufacture, sale and storage of Gutka containing areca nut or supari.

As Health is a State subject, the Centre extends all support through various Programmes particularly National Oral Health Programme (NOHP) to augment the efforts of the States to provide health care to the citizens.