

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF FINANCE
DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 3983

TO BE ANSWERED ON FRIDAY 4th JANUARY, 2019
PAUSHA 14, 1940 [SAKA]

Illegal Cigarette Market

3983. DR. NARAMALLI SIVA PRASAD:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government is aware that according to Euro Monitor International, India is 4th largest illegal cigarette market in the world;
- (b) if so, the details in terms of quantity and value of the cigarette sticks seized by the Directorate of Revenue Intelligence during the last five years; and
- (c) the steps taken by the Government to curb illegal cigarette market in the country?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE [REVENUE]
(SHRI SHIV PRATAP SHUKLA)

(a) No such report is available with the Government. However, the representation received from the Tobacco Institute of India indicates that according to Euro Monitor International, India is 4th largest illegal cigarette market in the world. Further a Research Report estimates the illicit cigarette market share at 2.73% and casts serious doubt on the tobacco industry estimate of 20% and the Euro Monitor's estimate of 21.3%.

(b) The details of the cigarette sticks seized by the Directorate of Revenue Intelligence during the last five years are as under:-

Year	No. of sticks seized (in Thousand)	Value of the sticks seized (Rs. in Lakh)
2013-14	12528.00	945.36
2014-15	122693.11	7790.07
2015-16	121031.16	10806.23
2016-17	77847.41	8268.36
2017-18	41434.60	3516.22

(c) All the Directorates/field formations have been alerted to be vigilant and to carry out proper checks to thwart and detect the illegal cigarette market.
