

(e) if so, by when Government would take action in the interest of people?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) to (e) Scientific investigations have confirmed the association of smoking with various diseases and have provided additional evidence implicating cigarette smoking as a cause of coronary artery disease, stroke, obstructive lung disease, peripheral vascular disease, pregnancy complications including intra-uterine growth retardation and a variety of neoplasms including cancers of oral cavity, larynx, oesophagus, urinary bladder, kidney, stomach, pancreas, cervix and haematopoietic system. Recent studies have also established close association between Tuberculosis and tobacco use. As per the 40-year follow-up study conducted in the United Kingdom, 50 per cent of total smokers die due to smoking related diseases.

The use of tobacco in smokeless form is one of the known risk factors in causation of throat cancer. Various NGOs and public health agencies have been campaigning for a ban on pan masala.

Tobacco products other than cigarettes come under the State List. Several State Governments like Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh and Maharashtra have already banned manufacture, storage and sale of pan masala. "The Cigarettes and other Tobacco Products (Prohibition of Advertisement and Regulation of Trade and Commerce, Production, Supply and Distribution) Bill, 2001, introduced in the Rajya Sabha in March, 2001 intends to discourage the use of tobacco products in any form.

Shortage of essential medicines in Government hospitals in NER

*419. SHRI DWIJENDRA NATH SHARMAH: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Government hospitals functioning at present in the State of Assam and other States of NER;

(b) whether it is a fact that there is shortage of essential medicines in all Government hospitals of NER;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the necessary measures being taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) to (d) Health being a State subject under the Constitution of India, such information is not maintained in the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare.

However, based on the information received from some North-Eastern States, a Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

Details of the information received from North-Eastern States regarding shortage of essential medicines in Govt. hospitals and the necessary measures taken by them

Sl.No.	Name of State	Part	wise reply
1.	Nagland	a.	i. Government Hospitals—13 ii. Other Health Units—458
		b.	Yes, Sir
		c.	i. Paucity of Fund Increased ii. Population iii. Combined diseases of poverty ynd diseases of affluence iv. Expansion of Health Units with increased population v. Disproportionate infrastructures development in NER for which the Government of Nagaland had to spend more money on infrastructures.
		d.	i. By increasing fund allocation for Health Sector as far as practicable. ii. Streamlining in procurement of most essential medicines.

Sl.No.	Name of State	Part wise reply
		iii. Improvement of infrastructure.
2.	Mizoram	a. Government Hospitals—7 b. No, Sir. c. does not arise. d. The Government keeps a constant watch on shortage of essential medicines in Government Hospitals.
3.	Sikkim	a. i. Government Hospitals—5 ii. PHCs —24 iii. PHSCs —147 b. No, Sir c. Does not arise. d. Adequate budgetary provisions for procurement of medicines has been provided.

Development of small and medium Towns

†*420. SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:
SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH 'LALAN':

Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT AND POVERTY ALLEVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a number of projects were sanctioned by Government for the development of small and medium towns during the year 1999-2000, 2000-2001 and 2001-2002;

(b) if so, the number of projects sanctioned during each of the above said years;

(c) the amount allocated for the implementation of the projects; and

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.