

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons why no final decision has been taken thereon so far; and

(c) whether Government proposes to fix responsibility on the officers who are responsible for not taking action on the report?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI S. GANDHISELVAN): (a) Yes.

(b) and (c) One vigilance case against Dr. BTC Murthy, former Director, National Institute for Naturopathy [presently Director, Central Council for Research in Yoga and Naturopathy (CCRYN)] is pending. As per the advice of the Central Vigilance Commission dated 18.05.2005, major penalty proceeding was initiated in November, 2005. The Inquiry Report dated 17.8.2007 was processed and referred to the CVC for its 2nd stage advice. The Commission had given its advice on 07.08.2009. The advice of the Commission is presently under consideration of the Government.

Profiling of rural and urban smokers

2099. DR. ABHISHEK MANU SINGHVI:

SHRI VIJAY JAWAHARLAL DARDA:

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

(a) whether Government is aware of the serious observations made by American Cancer Society and World Lung Foundation during August 2009 that female smokers in India die on an average 8 years earlier than their non-smoking peers;

(b) if so, whether any urban and rural profiles of smokers, both men and women have been prepared; and

(c) whether resorting to smoking is a situational compulsion or need-based requirement?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI S. GANDHISELVAN): (a) Yes. As per the Tobacco Atlas (third edition-2009) released by American Cancer Society and World Lung Foundation, female smokers in India die on an average 8 years earlier than their non-smoking peers;

(b) As per National Family Health Survey-3 (2005-06), Tobacco use is more prevalent in the rural areas than in urban areas, among men and women. 35% of rural men in age 15-49 smoke cigarettes/bidis compared with 29% of urban men. About 40% of rural men chew tobacco while around 31% of urban men do so. 10% rural women chew tobacco in rural areas compared to 6% in the urban areas.

(c) As per available evidence, initiation into smoking particularly by Youth is influenced by several factors including smoking by parents, friends/peer group and watching celebrities smoking in films.