

	Population served per doctor
Allopathic Doctor	1532.67
AYUSH doctor	1524.03
Dental Surgeon	12437.46
Nurse	725.33

#### Measures for discouraging consumption of Gutka and Paan

854. SHRI Y.S. CHOWDARY: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

- (a) the recent findings on harmful effects of Gutka and Paan;
- (b) whether Government has received any complaints for ban on manufacturing of Gutka and Paan;
- (c) if so, the status thereof; and
- (d) the measures contemplated by Government for discouraging consumption of these products in the interest of public health?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) Gutka and Paan with tobacco are proven to be carcinogenic *i.e.* causing cancer. Gutka also leads to a pre-cancerous condition called oral submucous fibrosis (OSF), the first step to cancer. The cancers caused by Gutka and Paan with tobacco include cancers of the lip, mouth, tongue, throat and esophageal cancers. The other health effects of using Gutka include:-

1. Loss of appetite
2. Unusual sleep patterns
3. Use by pregnant women leads to increased risk of low birth weight babies.

- (b) No.
- (c) Does not arise.

(d) Government of India has enacted "The Cigarettes and Other Tobacco Products (Prohibition of Advertisement and Regulation of Trade and Commerce, Production, Supply and Distribution) Act, 2003" (COTPA) to protect citizens, with special attention to risk groups such as pregnant women and children, from involuntary exposure to tobacco smoke, and to discourage consumption of cigarettes and other tobacco products including Gutka by imposing various regulatory measures. The following provisions under the Act regulate/discourage use of smokeless tobacco products including Gutka:-

- i. Ban on direct/indirect advertisement of tobacco products. **(Section -5)**
- ii. Ban on sale of tobacco products to children below 18 year and ban on sale of tobacco products within 100 yards of the educational institution. **(Section - 6)**
- iii. Specified health warnings on tobacco products. **(Section - 7)**

In addition, the following component of National Tobacco Control Programme (NTCP), which is under implementing in 42 Districts of 21 States also regulate/ discourage use of tobacco products including Gutka:-

**(a) National level**

- i. Public awareness/mass media campaigns for awareness building and for behavioral change.
- ii. Establishment of tobacco product testing laboratories, to build regulatory capacity, as required under COTPA, 2003.
- iii. Mainstreaming the program components as a part of the health delivery mechanism under the NRHM framework.
- iv. Mainstream Research and Training - on alternate crops and livelihoods with other nodal Ministries.
- v. Monitoring and Evaluation including surveillance e.g. Adult Tobacco Survey.

**(b) State level**

- i. Dedicated tobacco control cells for effective implementation and monitoring of Anti Tobacco Initiatives.

**(c) District level**

- i. Training of health and social workers, NGOs, school teachers etc.
- ii. Local IEC activities.

**Permission to private and foreign institutions to open nursing colleges**

855. SHRI MAHENDRA MOHAN: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to allow Government as well as private and foreign institutions to open new nursing college/schools and introduce basic nursing courses in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the number of proposals received by Government for setting up of nursing schools/colleges in the country during the last three years and the current year; and