

Pictorial warnings on Tobacco Packets

79. SHRIMATI SHOBHANA BHARTIA : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government has decided to retain the existing pictorial warnings on cigarette and bidi packages till December, 2011;

(b) if so, the reasons put forward by the tobacco industry to delay the change in pictorial warnings despite notification for changing the pictures being sent several months in advance;

(c) whether the tobacco industry has also asked Government to increase the duration of warnings to two to three years; and

(d) if so, the reaction of Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI S. GANDHISELVAN): (a) Yes. The Government of India *vide* its notification No.GSR 985 (E) dated 20.12.2010 has decided to retain the existing pictorial warnings till 01.12.2011.

(b) tobacco industry has stated that the new visual, which was notified *vide* GSR No. 176(E) dated 05.03.2010 was extremely harsh and excessive and similar visuals had earlier been rejected by Group of Ministers that was constituted to look into the matter relating to specified health warnings on tobacco products and was not as per the decision of the GOM regarding pictorial warning to be introduced in phase-II.

(c) Yes. They have requested to provide at least 10 months time to change-over to the new design and rotation of visual once in 5 years.

(d) Government of India has issued notification No. GSR 985 (E) dated 20.12.2010 to retain the existing pictorial warnings till 01.12.2011 and make a provision to rotate the specified health warnings on tobacco packs every two years.

Unlicensed blood banks

†80. SHRI MOTILAL VORA :

SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI:

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

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.