

(ii) The age of superannuation of faculty of several medical institutions has been enhanced to 65 years.

(iii) Assured Promotion Scheme for faculty of Central Government Institutions like AIIMS, PGI, JIPMER, NIHMANS has been revised similarly various allowances available to faculty like Non Practicing Allowance, Conveyance Allowance, Learning Resource Allowance, etc. have been enhanced considerably.

Acute faculty shortage at AIIMS

1626. SHRI D. RAJA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) is reeling under acute faculty shortage due to un-filled vacant posts as well as doctors going on leave or deputation;

(b) if so, the details of the total faculty position, vacant posts, gone on leave or deputation etc.; and

(c) what measures are being taken to fill the vacancies and restrict the doctors from going long period of leave and deputation?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) to (c) There are 629 sanctioned faculty posts at AIIMS. At present, six faculty members are on leave on foreign assignment, two on fellowship and three are on deputation. 200 faculty posts are vacant out of which 115 posts at the level of Assistant Professor/Lecturer in different disciplines have already been advertised for recruitment.

Ban on tobacco and gutkha products

†1627. SHRI ASHK ALI TAK: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the consumption of tobacco and gutkha creates strong possibility of causing cancer;

(b) if so, whether Government proposes, to impose complete ban on it; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) Yes.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

As per the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR), New Delhi, consumption of smokeless tobacco products is well known cause of cancers of mouth, tongue and pharynx.

(b) and (c) Presently, there is no such proposal to impose a complete ban on tobacco and Gutkha. However, Food Safety and Standards Regulation, 2011 does not permit addition of tobacco to any food product.

Findings on tobacco use and its effects on the population

1628. DR. GYAN PRAKASH PILANIA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) how alarming are the findings of the Global Adult Tobacco Survey India, 2009-2010;

(b) whether 8 lakh deaths could be attributed to tobacco use annually which besides causing death, disease and deformities as a study indicated, the total economic costs of treating tobacco related diseases were estimated at almost Rs. 30,833 crore per annum;

(c) if so, what steps under the National Tobacco Control Programme (NTCP) have been taken to check tobacco use;

(d) the reasons for delay in printing photo-warnings on cigarette packets;

(e) whether Gutkha and Paan with tobacco are proven to be carcinogenic; and

(f) if so, whether Government contemplates banning them?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) As per the Global Adult Tobacco Survey, India (GATS), 2010, more than one third (34.6%) of adults (15 years and older) in India use tobacco in some form or the other. The use of smokeless tobacco (25.9%) is more prevalent than smoking (14.1%). The GATS-India report indicates the high prevalence of tobacco use in the country.

(b) As per the Report on Tobacco Control in India, 2004, approx. 8-9 Lakh persons die annually due to tobacco attributable diseases and the total indirect costs of the three major tobacco-related diseases i.e. cancer, cardiovascular diseases and lung diseases were estimated at almost Rs. 308.33 billion in the year 2002-2003.

(c) Government of India enacted "The Cigarettes and Other Tobacco Products (Prohibition of Advertisement and Regulation of Trade and Commerce, Production, Supply and Distribution) Act,