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| 12. | Chandigarh | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Voluntary Health Assn. of Punjab, SCF-18/1, Sector 10-D, Chandigarh-160011. |
| 13. | Uttarakhand | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gramin Kshetra Vikas Samiti, Distt.-Tehri Garhwal, Uttarakhand • Society for Uttaranchal Development & Himalayan Action, Apna Ghar, The mall, Almora-293601, Uttarakhand. |
| 14. | Haryana | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Haryana Nev Yuvak Kala Sangam, “Ishwar Sadan”, Near Chaubisa ka Chabutra, Meham, Rohtak-124112, Haryana. |
| 15. | Bihar | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Samta Sevaa Kendra Sitamarhi • Gramin Evam Nagar Vikas Parishad, H.No. 33, Road No.-3, Patliputra Colony, Patna-800013, Bihar. |
| 16. | Chhattisgarh | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jan Mitram Kalyan Samiti, Janmitram House, Kelo Vihar, Indian School Road, Attarmuda, Raigarh-496001 • Kanagar Foundation, ATM Building, Mani Road, Korba. |
| 17. | Orissa | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New India, At/P.O.-Santhapur, Distt. • Dhenkanal-759016, Orissa. • Gania Unnayan Committee, At/P.O.-Belapadapatna, Distt.-Nayagarht-759016, Orissa. • Gangotree, Khurda • Nari Mangal Mahila Samiti, Puri |
| 18. | J & K | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jay Kay Women’s Welfare Society, Jammu |
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Tobacco-related Deaths in Rural Areas

2091. SHRIMATI VASANTHI STANLEY: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ministry is aware that rural areas in the country account for more tobacco-related deaths than urban areas; and

(b) if so, the steps the Ministry has taken to promote awareness against the risks posed by tobacco in rural areas?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) and (b) This Ministry is not aware that rural areas in the country account for more tobacco related deaths than urban areas. However, as per a report published in

New England Journal of Medicine, 2008, wherein it is revealed that the proportion of tobacco related deaths were higher in rural than urban population.

In order to create awareness about the harmful effects of tobacco use and about the provisions under Tobacco Control Act (COTPA) 2003, the National Tobacco Control Programme (NTCP) was launched in 2007-08 in 18 districts of 9 State, which was further up scaled in 24 district of 12 State in 2008-09. The programme broadly envisages:-

- (i) Public awareness/mass media campaigns for awareness building & for behavioral change.
- (ii) Establishment of tobacco product testing laboratories, to build regulatory capacity, as required under COTPA, 2003.
- (iii) Mainstream Research & Training – on alternate crops and livelihoods with other nodal Ministries.
- (iv) Monitoring and Evaluation including surveillance *e.g.* Adult Tobacco Survey.
- (v) Dedicated tobacco control cells for effective implementation and monitoring of Anti Tobacco Initiatives.
- (vi) Training of health and social workers, NGOs, school teachers etc.
- (vii) School programme.
- (viii) Setting up tobacco cessation centres.

Mass media campaign spots have been developed, focusing on different themes like smokeless tobacco, second-hand- smoke, Bidi smoking and Cardiovascular disease have been aired from time to time in National and Regional channels. Recently , this Ministry has also launched a Swasthya Bharat Campaign focusing on different themes including Tobacco uses for creating awareness about harmful effects of tobacco consumption and second hand smoke.

Moreover, States/ Districts cells have also been encouraged to use the traditional media to reach out the rural areas for creating awareness on the harmful effects of tobacco use.

Selling of Government Medicines in the Market in Delhi

†2092. SHRI RAGHUNANDAN SHARMA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government medicines are being sold at lower prices in the market in Delhi;

(b) whether investigation has been made in this regard and culprits have been booked; and

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.