

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

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† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(c) if so, whether the persons responsible and involved in this at all level have been identified and whether any action is being taken against them?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) to (c) No. However, Delhi Police has arrested some CGHS officials for investigation on the charges of selling of stolen CGHS medicines in the open market in the last three years as indicated below:

2009 - Shri Revati Prasad Sharma, Pharmacist/Storekeeper, Vivek Vihar dispensary and Shri Mithun Tyagi, Computer Operator, Yamuna Vihar Wellness Centre.

2010- Nil.

2011- Five officials of various CGHS dispensaries: S/Shri Attar Singh Mastwal, Pharmacist/Storerkeeper, Ravinder Kumar, Pharmacist Krishan Kumar Pharmacist, Sunil Kumar, Pharmacist and Bachcha Singh, Dresser.

The services of Shri Mithun Tyagi have been terminated. Departmental Enquiry against Shri Revati Prasad Sharma has been completed and penalty imposed for recovery of cost of medicines found short. For the remaining five officials, Departmental enquiry has been instituted as per rules.

#### **Prevention of Female Foeticide**

2093. SHRI MOHAMMED ADEEB: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has formulated new policy following the Hon'ble Supreme Court's order to prevent female foeticide;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether there is any proposal to abolish the old rules; and

(d) if so, by when and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) and (b) As per the directions of Hon. Supreme Court, the Government has intensified the drive against sex determination through effective implementation of the PC & PNDT Act. The steps include the following:

- Inspections by the reconstituted National Inspection and Monitoring Committee (NIMC) have been scaled up. The CSB has now authorized the committee to ensure that court cases are filed in the court against erring doctors.
- The Government is rendering financial support to the states to strengthen structures for the implementation of the Act under the National Rural Health Mission.