Written Answers to

Awareness on negative impact of tobacco usage

*129. SHRI SANJAY RAUT: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that there is an alarming rise in tobacco related health disorders in India;
- (b) whether it is also a fact that due to low levels of awareness the unhindered sale of tobacco products is nothing but a death trap for the vulnerable youth, especially in rural areas; and
- (c) the steps Government is taking to create wide awareness among the vulnerable youth in the country side against the use of tobacco?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) As per the report of Tobacco Control in India (2004), nearly 8-9 lakh people die every year due to diseases attributable to tobacco use. As per the ICMR study "Assessment of Burden of Disease due to Non-Communicable Diseases" (2006) based on analysis of published literature till 2004, the risk of disease attributable to tobacco use was 78% for stroke, 65.6% for tuberculosis, 85.2% for ischemic heart disease, 52% for acute myocardial infarction, 43% for oesophageal cancer, and 16% for lung cancer.

Further as per the WHO Global Report on Tobacco Attributable Mortality, (2012):-

- 7% of all deaths (for ages 30 and over) in India are attributable to tobacco.
- The proportion of deaths attributable to tobacco was almost 12% for men and 1% for women.
- Tobacco was responsible for 9% of all the deaths related to Non-Communicable Diseases and 2% of communicable disease related deaths
- Among communicable diseases, deaths attributed to tobacco accounted for 5% of all lower respiratory infections deaths and 4% of tuberculosis deaths.

- Among non-communicable diseases, 9% of deaths are attributable to tobacco, with 58% of deaths due to trachea, bronchus, lung cancers caused due to tobacco use. In addition, 25% of deaths caused by respiratory diseases and 28% of deaths caused by Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease (COPD) are attributable to tobacco.
- (b) As per the Global Adult Tobacco Survey (GATS) India (2010) conducted in the age group of 15 years and above, there are about 274.9 million users of tobacco in India and the prevalence is more in rural areas (38%) than urban areas (25.3%). Further, the Global Youth Tobacco Survey, 2009, conducted among the students aged 13-15 revealed that 14.6 % of students currently use any form of tobacco. It is possible that low levels of awareness contribute to increasing sales of tobacco products.
- (c) Government enacted "Cigarettes and Other Tobacco Products (Prohibition of Advertisement and Regulation of Trade and Commerce, Production, Supply and Distribution) Act (COTPA) in 2003 with the objective of reducing consumption of tobacco products in society, protecting youth and children from tobacco use and protecting the health of non smokers from the harmful effects of second hand smoke. The specific provisions include:
 - Section 4: Prohibition of smoking in public places

Section 5: Prohibition of direct and indirect advertisement, promotion and sponsorship of cigarette and other tobacco products.

Section 6(a): Prohibition of sale of cigarette and other tobacco products to a person below the age of eighteen years.

Section 6(b): Prohibition of sale of tobacco products within a radius of 100 yards of educational institutions.

Section 7: Depiction of pictorial health warnings on tobacco products.

Currently most of the Rules have been notified and are under implementation.

Further in order to facilitate the effective implementation of the Tobacco Control Laws and to bring about greater awareness about the harmful effects of tobacco use, the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Government of India, has launched the National Tobacco Control Programme (NTCP) in 42 districts in 21 States.

Under the national level mass media campaigns, specific advertisements have been developed and aired from time to time to create awareness about the harmful effects of tobacco usage, second hand smoke and various provision under COTPA. In addition, various anti-tobacco IEC materials have been developed and disseminated widely through radio, TV for increasing public awareness on the risks of tobacco use.