

Green Credit Scheme

*313. SHRI DILIPBHAI PANDYA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the State Government of Gujarat has submitted “Green Credit” Scheme to the Central Government for approval;

(b) if so, whether the Central Government has taken any action on the proposal of “Green Credit” Scheme;

(c) whether it is also a fact that though the Hon’ble Minister and the Secretary of the Department have agreed in principle, yet the Scheme has not been formally approved; and

(d) if so, by when the scheme is likely to be approved?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRIMATI JAYANTHI NATARAJAN): (a) The State Government of Gujarat had submitted a proposal by the name “Green Credit Scheme” to the Ministry. This proposal envisages advancing the obligatory compensatory afforestation in cases of diversion of forest land under the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980.

(b) to (d) The proposal has been examined in the Ministry and requires approval of Hon’ble Supreme Court of India. The State Government of Gujarat had been advised to approach the Hon’ble Supreme Court of India for obtaining further directions.

Tobacco-free India

*314. SHRIMATI NAZNIN FARUQUE: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has implemented a plan to free India from tobacco;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the number of States which have been declared “tobacco-free” during the last two months as part of a drive to eradicate tobacco use in India?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) and (b) “The Cigarettes and Other Tobacco Products (Prohibition

of Advertisement and Regulation of Trade and Commerce, Production, Supply and Distribution) Act,” (COTPA) was enacted in 2003 to regulate consumption, production, supply and distribution of tobacco products by imposing restrictions on prohibiting smoking in public places; advertisement, promotion and sponsorship of tobacco products; prohibiting sale to and by minors, prohibiting sale within a radius of 100 yards of educational institutions and through mandatory depiction of specified pictorial health warnings on all tobacco product packs.

In addition, the Food Safety and Standards Act (2006) and the Food Safety and Standards (Prohibition and Restrictions on Sales) Regulations, 2011 dated 1st August 2011, issued thereunder lays down that tobacco and nicotine shall not be used as ingredients in any food products.

In order to deter people from using tobacco, the National Tobacco Control Programme (NTCP) was launched in the year 2007-08, with the objectives to (i) create awareness about the harmful effects of tobacco consumption, (ii) reduce the production and supply of tobacco products, (iii) ensure effective implementation of the provisions made under “The Cigarettes and Other Tobacco Products (Prohibition of Advertisement and Regulation of Trade and Commerce, Production, Supply and Distribution) Act, 2003” (COTPA) and (iv) help the people quit tobacco use through Tobacco Cessation Centres. The programme is presently under implementation in 21 states covering 42 districts.

(c) No state has declared itself ‘tobacco free’ in the last two months. However during this period, the states of Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Odisha, Andhra Pradesh, Manipur, Jammu and Kashmir and Assam have issued orders for implementation of the Food Safety Regulations banning manufacture, sale and storage of Gutka and Pan Masala containing tobacco or nicotine.

All together, 28 States/UTs. have so far issued orders for implementation of the Food Safety Regulations banning manufacture, sale and storage of Gutka and Pan Masala containing tobacco or nicotine.

Rise in per capita income

†*315. SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether, according to the data released by the Central Statistics

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.