

Union Territories who have not issued notification in terms of 2006 Act to appraise the Court with the reasons as to why they have not taken action pursuant to the letter of Ministry of Health and Family Welfare dated 27.08.2012. The court also directed the Secretaries, Health Department of 23 States and 5 Union Territories to file their affidavits within four weeks on the issue of total compliance of the ban imposed on manufacturing and sale of gutkha and pan Masala with tobacco and/or nicotine.

#### **Global Disease Detection Centre**

725. SHRI BAISHNAB PARIDA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether India and USA propose to sign a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for establishing and operating a Global Disease Detection Centre in India;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether this will help in protecting spread of infectious diseases;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) which are the fields where both the countries propose to join hands to improve global health-care by preventing spread of pandemic flu and other diseases?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. HARSH VARDHAN): (a) and (b) A Memorandum of Understanding on the Establishment and Operation of Global Disease Detection Center (GDD) in India between Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Atlanta, the United States of America and National Centre for Disease Control, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Government of India has already been signed on 6th November, 2010. GDD - India Centre is operative since April 2011.

(c) to (e) The MoU envisages cooperation and collaboration in the following areas: (i) Epidemiological strengthening including surveillance and response to Epidemic prone diseases and Emerging Infectious Diseases; (ii) Strengthening public health laboratory capacity; and (iii) Strengthening Public health work force capacity to tackle Pandemic flue and other diseases.

#### **Cancerous diseases amongst tobacco users**

726. DR. T.N. SEEMA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has taken note of media/research reports on various cancerous diseases amongst users of gudakhu and other tobacco products in Odisha, Jharkhand and Chhattisgarh;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government has received representations regarding banning of gudakhu and such tobacco based toothpastes;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether Government has any mechanism for regular testing of various contents in gutkha, paan masala, gudakhu and other tobacco products like khaini in the country; and

(f) if so, the details thereof, with reference to such products?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. HARSH VARDHAN):

(a) and (b) The Ministry is aware of the harmful effects of tobacco products. Further, as per the Global Adult Tobacco Survey - India (GATS - 2010) conducted by Ministry of Health and Family Welfare the prevalence of Oral tobacco (*as snuff, mishri, Gul, Gudakhu*) in the Odisha, Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand is 7.3%, 28.3% and 7.9% respectively.

(c) and (d) The use of tobacco in tooth paste has been prohibited under Section 26 (A) of the Drugs and Cosmetics Act (1940) and the Rules notified *vide* Notification GSR 444(E), dated 30th April, 1992.

(e) and (f) At present, there is no mechanism for regular testing of contents in tobacco products.

#### **Rise in cases of epidemic diseases**

727. SHRI P. RAJEEVE: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the incidents of epidemic diseases has been on the rise in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof for the last three years in different States, year-wise; and

(c) the details of the steps taken by the Ministry to address the issues of epidemic diseases?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. HARSH VARDHAN):

(a) and (b) During the last four years, Influenza A H1N1 (Swine Flu) is the only disease that has been declared as a Pandemic in 2009 (an epidemic occurring over a very wide area affecting a large proportion of population) and spread across the country.

(c) Under the Integrated Disease Surveillance Programme (IDSP) surveillance units have been established in all States/districts [State Surveillance Units (SSU)/ District Surveillance Units (DSU)]. Under the project weekly disease surveillance data on epidemic prone diseases are collected and analyzed by SSU/DSU for disease trends. Whenever there is rising trend of illness, it is investigated by the Rapid Response Teams (RRTs) at District/State to diagnose and control the outbreak.