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17.	Uttar Pradesh	820	11,550
18.	Uttarakhand	95	14,262
19.	West Bengal	341	20,900

*As per the approvals issued up to 10 March, 2016

Protests against cancer warnings on Beedi bundles

2029. DR. K.V.P. RAMACHANDRA RAO: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether attention of Government has been drawn to the agitation of Beedi workers in Telangana and other parts of the country against mandatory printing of throat cancer danger mark on Beedi bundles;

(b) what steps are contemplated to address the Beedi workers concerns while balancing health concerns;

(c) whether Government agrees to keep in abeyance the orders on the health warning till alternate job arrangements are made for the Beedi workers; and

(d) why Beedi is targeted with such mandatory health warnings while giving kid gloves treatment to the liquor, which has emerged as the biggest health risk?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI JAGAT PRAKASH NADDA): (a) to (d) Government has received a few communications against mandatory printing of pictorial health warning on Beedi bundles.

The intent and purpose of the pictorial health warnings is to create awareness about the serious and adverse health consequences of tobacco usage among the youth, children, illiterate/semi-literate and the uninitiated, who are either the primary users of tobacco or who may be vulnerable to use tobacco products, so that they are empowered to make an informed choice about such use.

Sections 7 and 8 of the Cigarettes and Other Tobacco Products (Prohibition of Advertisement and Regulation of Trade and Commerce, Production, Supply and Distribution) Act 2003 (COTPA 2003) mandate depiction of specified warning, including pictorial warning, which is legible, prominent and conspicuous as to size and colour. The initial pictorial health warnings in India were notified *vide* G.S.R. 182 (E) dated 15th March 2008 and implemented *w.e.f* 31st May 2009. The current sets of warnings were notified *vide* GS.R. 724 (E) dated 27th September 2012 and implemented *w.e.f* 1st April 2013.

Ministry of Health and Family Welfare notified the new health warnings through the Cigarettes and Other Tobacco Products (Packaging and Labelling) Amendment Rules, *vide* G.S.R-727 dated 15th October 2014.

This notification was to come into effect from 1st April 2015. However, in view of submission of an interim report on the matter by the Committee on Subordinate Legislation (CoSL), a corrigendum was issued on 26th March 2015 suspending the date of implementation and stating that the date of implementation shall be as appointed/notified by the Government.

In pursuance of the order of Hon'ble Rajasthan High Court in the case of Rahul Joshi *vs.* Union of India and *Ors* (Writ Petition No. 8680/2015), the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, on 24th September 2015, notified that the New Rules on Pictorial Health Warnings would come into effect from 1st April 2016.

Impact of passive smoking on children

2030. SHRI ANUBHAV MOHANTY: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that passive smoking may make children vulnerable to cardiovascular diseases;

(b) whether smoking is taking its toll on the health of the youth of the nation;

(c) if so, what remedial measures Government proposes to introduce to curb smoking in general and also reduce vulnerability of cardiovascular diseases in children; and

(d) in view of the severe effect of smoking and use of tobacco on the health of its users, whether Government would consider banning use of tobacco products completely, if so, by when?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI JAGAT PRAKASH NADDA): (a) and (b) As per Global Youth Tobacco Survey, a school-based survey of students in grades 8, 9 and 10 conducted in 2009, one in five students live in homes where others smoke, and more than one-third of the students are exposed to smoke around others outside of the home; one-quarter of the students have at least one parent who smokes.

Exposure to second hand smoke results in lung cancer and heart diseases among adults, and SIDS (Sudden Infant Death Syndrome), chronic respiratory infections, exacerbation/worsening of asthma, reduced lung function growth, middle ear diseases, and acute respiratory illnesses among children. Smoking in the home affects babies and young children as well as the elderly and other adults, especially women.