

Augmenting awareness drive on Zika virus

*178. SHRI DIGVIJAYA SINGH: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the manner in which the Ministry intends to augment its methods of creating awareness and further monitoring the dissemination of information by the Central and State Governments about the Zika virus disease;

(b) what is Government's policy for creating long lasting and aggressive vector control management policies keeping in mind the number of mosquito borne diseases that India suffers from; and

(c) whether Government has issued instructions laying down a protocol for primary health centres as well as private clinics and hospitals to differentiate patients suffering from Zika virus disease and dengue since both have similar symptoms?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI SHRIPAD YESSO NAIK): (a) to (c) In addition to the ongoing activities undertaken by National Vector Borne Disease Control Programme, the Central Health Education Bureau has been identified as the nodal agency for creating awareness and dissemination of information regarding Zika virus disease. The Department of Health and Family Welfare has been regularly reviewing the preventive measures against Zika Virus, including through video conferencing with the State Governments. Advisories have been issued to the States for intensification of vector control measures. Guidelines for integrated vector management for control of Aedes mosquito have been issued and also made available on the website of Ministry of Health and Family Welfare. These guidelines include vector surveillance (both for adult mosquitoes and larvae), environmental management through environmental modification/ manipulation; personal protection, biological and chemical control using larvicide and adulticide at household, community and institutional levels.

The clinical diagnosis of a confirmed case of Zika virus is established through laboratory testing for which guidelines have been issued and also made available on the website of the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare.

Pan Masala advertisements

†*179. SHRI MAHENDRA SINGH MAHRA: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware of the fact that now a days each TV channel of the country is advertising Pan Masala with religious spirit?

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

- (b) if so, whether Pan Masala is good for health;
- (c) if not, whether Government would consider imposition of a ban on such advertisements, if not the reasons therefor;
- (d) whether Government has taken steps to deal with such advertisements, if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY): (a) Advertising Standards Council of India (ASCI) which is a self-regulatory body of advertisers and advertising Agencies in the industry has informed that during the year 2015-2016, it received 10 complaints against advertisement of various Pan Masala brands appearing on many TV channels. Of these, 7 were found to be violative of the ASCI Code on advertisements by ASCI.

(b) Ministry of Health and Family Welfare has informed that Pan Masala is not good for health.

(c) to (e) Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI), under Section 30 of Food Safety and Standards (Packaging and Labeling) Regulation, 2011, notified under Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006 enforced with effect from 5th August, 2011, has laid down that every package of Pan Masala and advertisement relating thereto, shall carry the warning, "Chewing of Pan Masala is injurious to health". At present, there is no proposal under consideration of this Ministry to completely ban advertisement of Pan Masala.

The Cigarettes and Other Tobacco Products (Prohibition of Advertisement and Regulation of Trade and Commerce, Production, Supply and Distribution) Act, 2003 administrated by Ministry of Health and Family Welfare has banned advertisement of Tobacco or Tobacco products.

So far as, advertisements appearing on TV channels are concerned, there is no pre-censorship of advertisements. However, Advertisements are required to adhere to the Advertising Code contained in Cable Television Networks Rules, 1994 enshrined in the Cable Television Networks (Regulation) Act, 1995. Rule 7(2)(viii)(A) of the Advertising Code provides that

"No advertisement shall be permitted which promotes directly or indirectly production, sale or consumption of cigarettes, tobacco products, wine, alcohol, liquor or other intoxicants.....".

Various provisions under the aforesaid Acts & Rules already impose a ban on Advertising of Tobacco products. Advertisements of Pan Masala containing Tobacco are, therefore, not permitted.

Induction of foreign-made SAMs

*180. SHRI A.W. RABI BERNARD: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Army has decided to go for Israeli quick-reaction surface-to-air missile (QR-SAMs) to take on enemy fighters, helicopters and drones after firmly rejecting further induction of the much-touted indigenous Akash missile, if so, the details thereof; and

(b) whether this would affect Make-in-India Policy, especially since the Navy is turning to France for similar requirements after dumping the Akash missiles for its warships due to stabilisation problems, if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI MANOHAR PARRIKAR): (a) and (b) A contract for procurement of two Regiments of Akash Weapon system for Army was signed with M/s. BDL in March, 2011. The Akash weapon System falls under the Short Range Surface to Air Missile (SRSAM) category and the Quick Reaction Surface to Air Missile (QR-SAM) is a separate category of missiles. Procurement of QRSAM is a separate multi-vendor case under the Buy (Global) category and vendors from Israel are among the competing firms. The Akash System was not considered for induction by Indian Navy as its current version is not a stabilised system suitable for ship borne usage. As the Akash System evolves through the process of continuous development, its current short-comings are bound to be addressed and the missile has the potential to become India's mainstay in the category of Short Range Surface to Air Missiles. Moreover, the production of Akash has also been ramped up to meet the requirements of the Air Force and the Army. It is relevant to mention here that as soon as the Akash missile was successfully tested the Air Force had dropped its plan to co-develop the missile through import of technology from France.

Capital Procurement of defence equipment is carried out as per Defence Procurement Procedure (DPP). DPP-2016 has been promulgated from 1st April, 2016, which focuses on institutionalizing, streamlining, and simplifying defence procurement procedure to give a boost to 'Make in India' initiative of the Government of India, by giving top priority to indigenous design, development and manufacturing of defence equipment, platforms, systems and sub-systems.