

Mechanism to ban ENDS

1022. SHRI BHUBANESWAR KALITA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is considering any mechanism to ban E-Cigarettes and Electronic Nicotine Delivery Systems (ENDS) in the country and if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether Government had issued advisory to States for introducing Vendor Licensing for sale of tobacco products; and

(c) whether Government has received any compliance report from States in this regard, if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI ASHWINI KUMAR CHOUBEY): (a) In larger public health interest and in order to prevent the initiation of Electronic Nicotine Delivery Systems (ENDS) by non-smokers and youth with special attention to vulnerable groups, Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, Government of India, has issued an Advisory to all States/ Union Territories to ensure that any Electronic Nicotine Delivery Systems (ENDS) including e-Cigarettes, Heat-Not-Burn devices, Vape, e-Sheesha, e-Nicotine Flavoured Hookah, and the like devices that enable nicotine delivery are not sold (including online sale), manufactured, distributed, traded, imported and advertised in their jurisdictions, except for the purpose and in the manner and to the extent, as may be approved under the Drugs and Cosmetics Act, 1940 and Rules made thereunder.

(b) and (c) This Ministry has requested States/Union Territories to consider developing a mechanism to provide permission/authorization through Municipal Authority/Local Authority to retail shops who are selling tobacco products with a condition/provision in the authorization that the shops authorized for selling tobacco products, cannot sell any non-tobacco product such as toffees, candies, chips, biscuits, soft-drinks, etc., which are essentially meant for children.

The State Government of Rajasthan (only in Urban Local Bodies' areas) and other Urban Local Bodies in the State of Uttar Pradesh, Jharkhand and Bihar have issued order/circular for stopping tobacco shops from selling toffees, candies, chips, biscuits, soft-drinks, etc.