

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE**

**RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.3156
TO BE ANSWERED ON 23RD MARCH, 2021**

ISSUES OF TOBACCO AND IT'S CONTROL

3156 SHRI BHASKAR RAO NEKKANTI:

Will the Minister of **HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE** be pleased to state:

- (a) the important steps taken by Government to prevent tobacco consumption and to control the production supply under the COTPA, 2003
- (b) if so, the details thereof
- (c) the number of tobacco production companies which violated the COTPA, 2003 and the actions taken against them till date and
- (d) the details of specific areas drafted in Cigarettes and Other Tobacco Products (Amendment) Bill 2020 in public domain?

**ANSWER
THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND
FAMILY WELFARE
(SHRI ASHWINI KUMAR CHOUBEY)**

(a) & (b): Several steps have been taken by the Government to prevent tobacco consumption. Some of the major steps are as under;

- The Ministry of Health & Family Welfare has enacted a comprehensive legislation, namely the Cigarettes and Other Tobacco Products (Prohibition of Advertisement and Regulation of Trade and Commerce, Production, Supply and Distribution) Act, 2003 (COTPA 2003) to discourage the consumption of tobacco products in order to protect the masses from the health hazards attributable to tobacco use. The provisions under COTPA, 2003 and the Rules made thereunder mandates prohibition of smoking in public places; ban on sale of tobacco products to and by minors and within 100 yards of educational institutions; prohibition on direct and indirect advertising of tobacco products and mandatory display of specified health warnings.
- The National Tobacco Control Programme (NTCP) was launched by this Ministry in 2007- 08 with the aim 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 under COTPA, 2003 (iv) help people quit tobacco use, and (v) facilitate implementation of strategies for prevention and control of tobacco advocated by WHO Framework Convention of Tobacco Control.

- The stakeholders are being made aware on a regular basis about the adverse effects of tobacco usage on health through various anti-tobacco campaigns via different mode of communication.
- The Government of India has notified rules to regulate films and TV programmes depicting scenes of tobacco usage to spread awareness. Such films and TV programmes are statutorily required to run anti-tobacco health spots, disclaimers and static health warnings.
- Specified health warnings on tobacco products is enhanced w.e.f. 1st April, 2016 to 85% of the principal display area of tobacco product packs. Quitline number has been included in new specified health warnings with Quitline number which came into effect on 1st September, 2018.
- The Ministry has started National Tobacco Quitline to provide tobacco cessation services to the community and has launched a pan-India “mCessation” initiative to reach out to tobacco users who are willing to quit tobacco use and to support them towards successful quitting through text-messaging via mobile phones. Tobacco cessation centers have also been set up in Dental Colleges/Institutions across the country.
- Revised guidelines developed for Tobacco Free Educational Institutions (ToFEI) to implement Section-6 of COTPA, 2003 has been disseminated/implemented.
- The Food Safety and Standards Regulations (FSSAI) issued in 2011 under the Food Safety & Standards Act, 2006 lay down that tobacco and nicotine cannot be used as ingredients in Food Products.
- All tobacco products are covered under the highest slab i.e. 28% under Goods & Service Tax with an additional compensation cess, excluding bidis.
- In order to encourage tobacco workers to shift to alternative vocations, the Ministry of Labour & Employment, Government of India in collaboration with the Ministry of Skill Development & Entrepreneurship, Government of India, has initiated ‘Skill Development’ programme for bidi rollers, to facilitate them to shift to alternative vocations.
- Department of Agriculture and Cooperation & Farmers Welfare, Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, has extended Crop Diversification Programme (CDP), an on-going sub- scheme of Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojna (RKVY) to 10 tobacco growing States w.e.f 2015-16 to encourage tobacco growing farmers to shift to alternate crops/cropping systems.

(c): As per information received from Department of Commerce, Ministry of Commerce & Industry, Tobacco Board has not received any information by the implementing agencies of COTPA, 2003 regarding violations of COTPA, 2003 by the traders who are registered with Tobacco Board as “Manufacturers of Virginia Tobacco”.

(d): The Government of India had placed the draft Cigarettes and Other Tobacco Products (Prohibition of Advertisement and Regulation of Trade and Commerce, Production, Supply and Distribution) (Amendment) Bill, 2020 in public domain, as part of pre-legislative consultations, with a view to elicit the comments/views of public.