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

RAJYA SABHA  
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2653  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 21ST DECEMBER, 2021  

MEASURES TAKEN TO DISCOURAGE USE OF TOBACCO

2653: SHRI BHUBANESWAR KALITA:

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

(a) whether Government is committed to discourage the use of Tobacco products;

(b) if so, the details of schemes launched with the targets achieved;

(c) whether Government started getting additional tax to reduce the consumption of Tobacco products; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE

(DR. BHARATI PRAVIN PAWAR)

(a) to (d): The National Health Policy (NHP), 2017 stipulates the target of relative reduction of 15% in tobacco use by 2020 and of 30% by 2025, from the baseline levels of 2010.

As per the Report of the second round of the Global Adult Tobacco Survey (GATS-2), there has been 17.3% relative reduction in prevalence of tobacco use by 2016-17. As such, the target set for 2020 has been achieved.

Several steps have been taken by the Government to further achieve the target for reduction in prevalence of tobacco use by 2025. Some of the major steps are:-

- 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. Enforcement efforts are also monitored by the State Tobacco Control Cells (STCCs) and District Tobacco Control Cells (DTCCs).

The stakeholders are being made aware on a regular basis about the adverse effects of tobacco usage on health through various anti-tobacco campaigns vide 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 for Tobacco Free Educational Institutions (ToFEI) to implement Section-6 of COTPA, 2003 have been disseminated/implemented.

The Food Safety and Standards (Prohibition and Restrictions on Sales) Regulations, 2011, Regulation 2.3.4, issued under the Food Safety & Standards Act, 2006, provides that tobacco and nicotine cannot be used as ingredients in Food Products.

All tobacco products are covered under 28% slab of under Goods & Service Tax.