

Need to adopt strong FOPL Regulations ensuring warning labels on HFSS foods

SHRI BHUBANESWAR KALITA (Assam): Madam, India is facing a huge burden of diseases such as diabetes, heart diseases and cancers. One out of four adults in India is either a diabetic or prediabetic, according to the latest study. These diseases are responsible for more than 60 per cent of total deaths in the country and many are preventable. One of the major reasons for rising number of diabetes and other diseases is increasing consumption of junk food and High Fat Sugar and Salt (HFSS) foods and beverages, (WHO, Scientific Studies). In India, the sale of such unhealthy foods is growing by 19% annually. (Lancet, June 2023). Sales of food/beverages are shrinking in the West and companies are descending into emerging economies and targeting vulnerable populations and children. India needs to come up with a strong 'Front of Pack Labelling' (FOPL) policy on HFSS foods that can reduce their consumption. The WHO has recently called upon the governments to formulate strong policies that would decrease the consumption of such unhealthy foods. One such FOPL policy is to mandate warning labels as FOPL on HFSS foods that are already defined in the draft regulation. The WHO SEARO's thresholds can be used too. This is the only policy that works and is backed by global and national evidence. I urge upon the Government to urgently adopt strong FOPL regulation to ensure mandatory warning labels on the HFSS foods. India can demonstrate global leadership to protect its people from harmful HFSS marketing like effectively done in the case of marketing of 'Baby Foods' and 'Tobacco'.

SHRI KAMAKHYA PRASAD TASA (Assam): Madam, I associate myself with the Special Mention made by the hon. Member.

Non-deposit of tax deducted from the income of the assesses by their employer

SHRI GULAM ALI (Nominated): Madam, this is to bring to your kind consideration that certain taxpayers are facing some income tax related hardships on account of non-deposit of tax deducted at source to Government account by tax deductors which does not come to the notice of Central Processing Centre (CPC) of the Income Tax Department and when the assessee approaches the Jurisdictional Income Tax Officer with such problems, the Jurisdictional Officer expresses his inability to take any action against the defaulters claiming that the Income Tax Officer cannot do unless the same comes from CPC. In one such instance, the TDS of a taxpayer was deducted by a Government Corporation/JMC but was not deposited during the

relevant year in Jammu and Kashmir. The assessee had offered his correct Income for tax to the Income Tax Department and calculated proper taxes. Credit of TDS was not received on account of non-deposit of the tax deducted by the deductor. As a result, the Department served the person demand notice of the amount of tax which was deducted out of the income of the person but was not deposited by the said Government Corporation during the relevant year. Same may have been done with the other assesseees by various departments/corporations across India. I, therefore, urge the Government to seek data on such complaints and redress them.

Need for ending dependence on coal during high electricity demands

SHRI AYODHYA RAMI REDDY ALLA (Andhra Pradesh): Madam, based on government data, Reuters reported that India experienced its most substantial growth in power generation in over thirty years during the previous fiscal year, with coal-fired plants recording a 12.4 per cent surge in electricity production, leading to a notable rise in emissions. The surge in power demand, driven by intense summer heat-waves and other contributing factors, compelled India to boost its power output from both coal and solar facilities to avoid power shortages.

Indian power plants in the new fiscal year are expected to burn about 8 per cent more coal, according to the report. The rapid acceleration in India's coal-fired output to address increased power demand remains a significant hurdle as we have committed to reducing our carbon emissions. As climate change is likely to accelerate the impact of heat-waves, addressing increased electricity demands while also reducing the share of coal in the power mix will be a recurrent challenge and must be tackled effectively.

Therefore, I request the Government to take measures towards renewable energy diversification and increasing the renewable energy generation capacity to tackle the increased power demand. This would ensure that we stay on the right path regarding our sustainable development commitments and successfully end our coal dependence.

Need to establish a National Building and Construction Workers Fund by amending the relevant Acts

SHRI G.V.L. NARASIMHA RAO (Uttar Pradesh): Madam, as per the Building and Other Construction Workers Act, one per cent cess is collected by labour departments of State governments from builders of construction projects. The money