

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1089

ANSWERED ON:14.07.2004

BAN ON GUTKA AND OTHER TOBACCO PRODUCTS

Athawale Shri Ramdas;Chandel Shri Suresh;Kanodia Shri Mahesh Kumar;Thakkar Smt. Jayaben B.

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

- (a) whether the Government is aware of the increasing cases of mouth cancer in the country caused by the use of Gutka and other Tobacco products;
- (b) if so, whether the Government is considering imposing a ban on the use of Gutka as also on the sale of tobacco and tobacco products at public places and educational institutions;
- (c) if so, the steps taken in this regard;
- (d) whether the Government has a proposal to make a law to prohibit smoking;
- (e) if so, the details thereof;
- (f) whether the Government has celebrated `World No Tobacco Day` this year; and
- (g) if so, the fresh initiatives taken by the Govern in this regard?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAS WELFARE (DR. ANBUMANI RAMDOSS):

(a) to (e) Being aware of the serious ill-effects of tobacco use, the Government enacted a comprehensive tobacco control legislation titled `The Cigarettes and other Tobacco Products (Prohibition of Advertisement and Regulation of Trade and Commerce, Production, Supply and Distribution) Act, 2003` in 2003 for discouraging the use of cigarettes and other tobacco products like Gutka etc. Some important provisions of the Act, which are applicable to the country are:

- (i) Prohibition of smoking in a public place.
- (ii) Prohibition of direct and indirect advertisement of all tobacco products.
- (iii) Prohibition of sale of all tobacco products to a person below the age of eighteen years.
- (iv) Prohibition of sale of all tobacco products ,with in a radius of 100 yards of educational institute.
- (v) Mandatory depiction of statutory warnings (including pictorial warnings) on tobacco paacks.
- (vi) Mandatory depiction of tar and nicotine contents alongwith maximum permissible limits on tobacco packs.

The provisions of the Act mentioned at item

- (i),
- (ii),
- (iii) above have been brought into force w.e.f. 1.5.2004

(f) and (g) `World No Tobacco Day` was observed on 31st May, 2004. A number of workshops/seminars and cultural activities were organized by the governmental and non-governmental agencies all over the country publicise the ill-effects of tobacco and discourage its use.