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Title: Regarding ill-effects of Tobacco consumption.

SHRI ANTO ANTONY (PATHANAMATHITTA): Respected Chairman, I take this opportunity to request the Government to kindly ban smoking and smokeless tobacco products in the country. Recently, hon. Supreme Court has imposed a ban on the sale of these substances in plastic pouches on the ground that the plastic pouches lead to asthma. However, substances inside the plastic pouches, such as paan masala, gutka and cigarettes have more dreadful impact on human health.

It is proved that the use of smoking and smokeless tobacco leads to cancer, cardiovascular diseases and chronic lung diseases. As per report, nine lakh deaths occur in India due to diseases related to tobacco use. It further states that 80,000 new cases of oral cancer are reported in India every year and this is the highest in the world. India alone accounts for 86 per cent of the total oral cancer cases identified across the world. Studies show that 90 per cent of oral cancer cases in the country are developing due to the use of smokeless tobacco such as gutka.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please put your demand.

SHRI ANTO ANTONY : Just one minute, Sir. These reports show how dangerous are the smoking and smokeless tobacco products. However, our people including our burgeoning generation are being victimized by the tobacco manufacturers in the country. It is propagated that smokeless tobacco is safer than the smoking tobacco such as cigarettes. Many people wrongly consider smokeless tobacco products as mouth fresheners. These facts give impetus to smokeless tobacco products to be booming in Indian markets.

I also invite your kind attention to a news item which was published in a reputed national daily on 29<sup>th</sup> May, 2011. It was on a clinical examination report of paan masala samples. The report revealed that three top paan masala brands used 'deadly mix' in their products. This act is actionable offence under the Food Adulteration laws that exist in various States of the country. According to the Global Adult Tobacco Survey, 2010, one-third of Indian population use smokeless tobacco. Today, India is the second largest consumer of tobacco products in the world, of which smokeless tobacco is the hot pick.

The aforesaid facts show that the innocent people in India are being victimized by the tobacco manufacturers especially the smokeless tobacco producers. This has an adverse impact on our health sector. If this condition continues unchecked, it will become the greatest threat to our national security in terms of the health of the people. Therefore, I would request the Government to introduce a comprehensive Bill to put a ban on tobacco products in the country.