

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE
RAJYA SABHA
QUESTION NO 09.11.2010
ANSWERED ON
TOBACCO CONSUMPTION AMONG WOMEN .

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SHRI UPENDRA KUSHWAHA

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

- (a) whether it is a fact that as per the National Family Health Survey (2005-06) only 10 per cent of country's female population used to consume tobacco at that time;
- (b) whether it is also a fact that as per the study conducted by the Ministry under the name of Global Adult Tobacco Survey (GAT) the percentage of females consuming tobacco has increased to 20.3 per cent; and
- (c) if so, the steps Government is going to take to check the rapid increase in the habit of tobacco consumption among females?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE

(SHRI S. GANDHISELVAN)

(a)Yes.

(b)Yes.

(c) Government of India has enacted "The Cigarettes and Other Tobacco Products (Prohibition of Advertisement and Regulation of Trade and Commerce, Production, Supply and Distribution) Act, 2003" (COTPA) to protect citizens, with special attention to risk groups such as pregnant women and children, from involuntary exposure to tobacco smoke, and to discourage consumption of cigarettes and other tobacco products by imposing various regulatory measures. A comprehensive national level mass media campaign has been undertaken through electronic (radio and television) and print media to create awareness about adverse health effects of consumption of tobacco products and various provisions of COTPA, 2003.

Public notices have been published in major newspapers of the country to sensitise the public especially the vulnerable sections including women and youth for behaviour change.

Dedicated District tobacco control cells in 42 districts under the National Tobacco Control Programme are also engaged in health promotion activities including training, School Health Programme, tobacco cessation etc.

Advocacy workshops on the occasion of World No Tobacco Day on 31st May 2010 on the theme 'Women and Tobacco' have been organised to sensitise public about adverse health impact of consumption of tobacco products amongst women and children.

An Inter-Ministerial Task Force has constituted by Ministry of Health & Family Welfare to mainstream tobacco control in the development agenda of key stakeholder ministries, eg Ministry of Women and Child Development, Ministry of Rural Development, Ministry of Labour etc.

Ministry of Labour has initiated action for sensitizing women bidi rollers to take up alternate economically viable employment, through vocational training programmes, in 9 region of the country.