

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

**RAJYA SABHA  
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.296  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 1<sup>ST</sup> DECEMBER, 2015**

**INCREASE IN TOBACCO USAGE AMONG COLLEGE STUDENTS**

**296. SHRI BAISHNAB PARIDA:**

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

- (a) whether it is a fact that there is a 4- fold increase in cigarette/other tobacco products trade in India;
- (b) whether this illegal trade has been harming the health system especially of college students, if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) whether Government has devised some action plan to control this menace, if so, the details thereof?

**ANSWER  
THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE  
(SHRI JAGAT PRAKASH NADDA)**

(a): The Ministry of Health & Family Welfare (MoHFW) doesn't have any information about the 4-fold increase in cigarette/other tobacco products trade in India.

However, as per the information provided by the Anti-Smuggling Unit of the Department of Revenue, the value of various categories of tobacco products seized under the Customs Act by the Department has increased in the year 2014-15 as compared to the year 2013-14. The details are at ANNEXURE.

(b): The Global Adult Tobacco Survey – India (2010) conducted in the age group of 15 years and above revealed that there are about 274.9 million users of tobacco products in India. As per the Global Youth Tobacco Survey-2009, 14.6 % of students aged 13-15 in the country currently use tobacco products.

As per the report of Tobacco Control in India (2004), nearly 8-9 lakh people die every year due to diseases attributable to tobacco use.

(c): As per its international obligation under Article 15 of the WHO Framework Convention on Tobacco Control, Government of India led by Ministry of Health & FW (MoHFW) has actively participated in all the Inter-government Negotiating Body (INB) meetings for development of the protocol on illicit trade.

As per the information provided by the Anti-Smuggling Unit of the Department of Revenue, all field formations, including Directorate of Revenue Intelligence (DRI) of CBEC, have been alerted and strict vigilance is kept in sensitive areas at airports/borders. Inter-agency coordination with other Law Enforcement Agencies is also maintained for greater exchange of intelligence inputs to keep a check on smuggling activities.

**ANNEXURE****Value of Tobacco Products (in Rs. Lakh) seized under the Customs Act**

<b>Year</b>	<b>Cigarette</b>	<b>Gutkha</b>	<b>Tobacco</b>	<b>Bidi</b>	<b>Gul</b>
2013-14	2011.12	42.87	0.00	3.54	0.00
2014-15	8938.48	108.02	20.56	5.42	2.33