

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

**RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2844
TO BE ANSWERED ON 20TH MARCH, 2018**

POPULATION ADDICTED TO ALCOHOL AND TOBACCO

2844. SHRI B.K. HARIPRASAD:

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

- (a) whether Government has conducted any survey recently to find the percentage of population consuming tobacco and alcohol;
- (b) if so, the details thereof along with the urban and rural area-wise percentage of women, men and children consuming tobacco and alcohol for the last three years; and
- (c) the steps being taken by Government to save people from this problem?

ANSWER

**THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND
FAMILY WELFARE
(SHRI ASHWINI KUMAR CHOUBEY)**

(a) & (b): Yes, recently, two surveys were conducted, first the second round of the Global Adult Tobacco Survey (GATS 2) in 2016-17 for Tobacco consumption etc. and second the National Family Health Survey(NFHS)-4 conducted in 2015-16, covering the subject of alcohol and tobacco consumption. Both these surveys were undertaken by the Ministry of Health & Family Welfare. GATS 2 conducted in 2016-17 is a household survey of persons aged 15 and above. The findings on tobacco use from this survey are given below:

Current tobacco users	Men (%)	Women (%)	Urban (%)	Rural (%)	Total (%)
Using any form of tobacco	42.4	14.2	21.2	32.5	28.6

Further, National Family Health Survey(NFHS)-4 conducted in 2015-16 inter-alia provides information for women (age 15-49 years) and men (age 15-54 years) who use any kind of tobacco and drink alcohol. The information from NFHS 4 (2015-16) national report, is available only for current use of tobacco and alcohol. The details are given as below:

Percentage of women and men age 15-49 years who use any kind of tobacco and drink alcohol by residence, India, NFHS-4, 2015-16				
	Use of any kind of tobacco (%)		Drink alcohol (%)	
	Women	Men	Women	Men
Urban	4.4	38.9	0.7	28.7
Rural	8.1	48.0	1.5	29.5
Total	6.8	44.5	1.2	29.2

NFHS 4 also indicated that 1.6 percent of women and 18.5 percent of men in the age group 15-19 years use any kind of tobacco. Further, 0.5 percent of women and 8.9 percent of men in the same age group drink alcohol.

(c): The Ministry of Health & Family Welfare has enacted a comprehensive legislation, namely the Cigarettes and Other Tobacco Products (Prohibition of Advertisement and Regulation of Trade and Commerce, Production, Supply and Distribution) Act, 2003 (COTPA 2003) in order to protect the masses from the health hazards attributable to tobacco use.

The National Tobacco Control Programme (NTCP) was launched by this Ministry in 2007- 08 with the aim to (i) create awareness about the harmful effects of tobacco consumption, (ii) reduce the production and supply of tobacco products, (iii) ensure effective implementation of the provisions under COTPA, 2003 (iv) help the people quit tobacco use, and (v) facilitate implementation of strategies for prevention and control of tobacco advocated by WHO Framework Convention of Tobacco Control.

Government of India notified rules to regulate films and TV programmes depicting scenes of tobacco usage to spread awareness. Such films and TV programmes are statutorily required to run anti-tobacco health spots, disclaimers and static health warnings.

Further, to spread awareness on adverse impact of consumption of tobacco products, with effect from 1st April, 2016, the size of specified health warnings on packages of tobacco and tobacco products has been increased to 1.85 times than the size that was being displayed before April 1, 2016.

The Ministry started National Toll-free Helpline (1800 110 456) in 2008, with a primary aim to report violations under various provisions of COTPA 2003. In addition, this Helpline also provides information on harmful effects of consumption of tobacco, and on how to quit tobacco use, including after-effects of quitting tobacco.

The Ministry also started National Tobacco Quitline to provide tobacco cessation services to the community and has launched a pan-India “mCessation” initiative to reach out to tobacco users who are willing to quit tobacco use and to support them towards successful quitting through text-messaging via mobile phones.

The stakeholders are being made aware on a regular basis about the adverse effects of tobacco usage on health through various anti-tobacco campaigns vide different mode of communication.

Alcohol:

a. Licensing Laws

Prohibition is incorporated in the Constitution of India among the directive principles of state policy. Article 47 says: “Duty of the State to raise the level of nutrition and the standard of living and to improve public health: The State shall regard the raising of the level of nutrition and the standard of living of its people and the improvement of public health as among its primary duties and, in particular, the State shall endeavour to bring about prohibition of the consumption except for medicinal purposes of intoxicating drinks and of drugs which are injurious to health”

Prohibition, enshrined as an aspiration in the Constitution, was introduced and then withdrawn in Haryana and Andhra Pradesh in the mid-1990s, although it continues in Gujarat, with partial restrictions in other states – Delhi, for example, has dry days. There was an earlier failure of prohibition in Tamil Nadu. Excise department regulate and control the sale of liquor in the NCT of Delhi. Retail supply of alcohol is regulated by Delhi Liquor License Rules, 1976. It prohibits consumption and service of liquor at public places.

Similarly, no individual should possess liquor at one time more than the prescribed limit without special permit. As per excise rules in Rajasthan, a person can possess maximum 3liters of Country Liquor, 6 Liter of IMFL and 12 Bottles of Beer. The Bombay Prohibition Act, 1949, prohibits the production, manufacture, possession, exportation, importation, transportation, purchase, sale, consumption and use of all intoxicants.

b. Drunken Driving-

The blood alcohol content (BAC) limits are fixed at 0.03%. Detection of BAC values more than this limit, while driving is a punishable offence.

On March 1, 2012, the Union Cabinet approved proposed changes to the Motor Vehicle Act. As per the new provisions, drunken driving would be dealt with higher penalty and jail terms - fines ranging from 2,000 to 10,000 and imprisonment from 6 months to 4 years. Offence of drunken driving will be graded according to alcohol level detected in the blood.

c. Alcohol Advertisements

Advertising alcoholic beverages including tobacco products has been banned in India as per the Cable Television Network (Regulation) Amendment Bill which came into effect on 8 September 2000.