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

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1884
TO BE ANSWERED ON 02ND AUGUST 2022

PROPOSAL TO INCREASE AGE LIMIT FOR TOBACCO CONSUMPTION

1884. SHRI NEERAJ DANGI:

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

(a) whether the Government proposes to bring in a regulation to increase the age limit for tobacco consumption from 18 to 21 years;

(b) if so, the details and the timeframe thereof; and

(c) the details of steps being taken by the Government to address underage tobacco consumption in the country?

ANSWER
THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE
(DR. BHARATI PRAVIN PAWAR)

(a) to (c): The draft Cigarettes and Other Tobacco Products (Prohibition of Advertisement and Regulation of Trade and Commerce, Production, Supply and Distribution) (Amendment) Bill, 2020, was hosted in public domain for pre-legislative consultation. The Ministry has received representations, comments and suggestions on the draft Bill.

The steps taken by the Government to address underage tobacco consumption in the country are as under;

As per Section 6 (a) of Cigarettes and Other Tobacco Products (Prohibition of Advertisement and Regulation of Trade and Commerce, Production, Supply and Distribution) Act, 2003 (COTPA, 2003) read with Cigarettes and Other Tobacco Products (Prohibition of Advertisement and Regulation of Trade and Commerce, Production, Supply and Distribution) Amendment Rules, 2011, there is **prohibition on sale of tobacco products to and by persons below the age of 18 years** and as per Section 6 (b) of COTPA, 2003, there is **prohibition on sale of tobacco products in an area within a radius of one hundred yards of any educational institution**.

The Ministry has also issued the "**Guidelines for Tobacco Free Educational Institution** (Revised)" for effective implementation of Section-6 of COTPA, 2003, on 31st May, 2019; States have taken effective measures with Education departments for implementation of these Guidelines.

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