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

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1555
TO BE ANSWERED ON 14TH MARCH 2023

CAMPAIGN AGAINST TOBACCO CONSUMPTION

1555 SHRI SUJEET KUMAR:

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

(a) measures taken by Government for the campaign against tobacco consumption strategies to stop the teenage population from getting addicted to tobacco, in view of the fact that tobacco use accounts for almost 50 per cent of all cancers in the country;

(b) whether Government has any plans for sponsoring a country-wide population based screening programmes for cancer at the primary health centre (PHC) level under NHM;

(c) whether Government has considered capping diagnostic testing charges, given the high cost of cancer diagnostic procedures and lack of diagnostic facilities in public hospitals; and

(d) if so, the details thereof, if not, the reasons therefor?

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

(a) to (d) :   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) to regulate the use of tobacco products has been enacted to discourage the use of tobacco, with emphasis on protection of children and young people from becoming addicted to the use of tobacco, with a view to achieve improvement of public health in general as enshrined in Article 47 of the Constitution. The provisions under COTPA, 2003 and the Rules made thereunder mandate prohibition of smoking in public places; ban on sale of tobacco products to and by minors, sale of tobacco products within a radius of 100 yards of educational institutions; prohibition on direct and indirect advertising of tobacco products and mandatory display of specified health warnings.

To further accelerate the efforts towards tobacco control, Government launched National Tobacco Control Programme (NTCP) in 2007- 08 which aims at discouraging the use of tobacco with special emphasis on protection of children and young people; create awareness

about the harmful effects of tobacco consumption through regular and sustained public awareness campaigns; ensure effective implementation of the provisions under "The Cigarettes and Other Tobacco Products (Prohibition of Advertisement and Regulation of Trade and Commerce, Production, Supply and Distribution) Act, 2003" (COTPA); provision of tobacco cessation facilities; facilitate supply and demand reduction measures of WHO Framework Convention of Tobacco Control. The States/UTs undertake drives for enforcement of COTPA 2003. Enforcement efforts are also monitored by the State Tobacco Control Cells (STCCs) and District Tobacco Control Cells (DTCCs).

The Ministry has also issued the "Guidelines for Tobacco Free Educational Institution (Revised)" for effective implementation of Section-6 of COTPA, 2003. States are taking effective measures with Education departments for implementation of these Guidelines.

The Government has enacted "The Prohibition of Electronic Cigarettes (Production, Manufacture, Import, Export, Transport, Sale, Distribution, Storage and Advertisement) Act, 2019" on 5th December, 2019 to protect the youth from getting addicted to nicotine.

A population-based initiative for prevention, control and screening for common NCDs has been rolled-out in the country under NHM and also as a part of Comprehensive Primary Health Care. Under the initiative, persons more than 30 years of age are targeted for their screening for the common NCDs including oral, breast and cervical cancers. Screening of these common NCDs is an integral part of service delivery under Ayushman Bharat – Health and Wellness Centres. Various cancer diagnostic services are provided at affordable costs through Cancer Institutes, AB-PMJAY, AIIMSs, Central Govt. hospitals and other government facilities.

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