

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF EDUCATION  
DEPARTMENT OF SCHOOL EDUCATION AND LITERACY

**RAJYA SABHA**  
**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1012**  
ANSWERED ON 04.12.2024

**Tobacco-free educational institutions**

1012 Shri Pramod Tiwari:

Will the Minister of *Education* be pleased to state:

- (a) whether an advisory has been issued to States/ UTs for effective implementation of Tobacco-free educational institutions guidelines and manual;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether findings of the Global Youth Tobacco Survey 2019, underscored alarming effects of tobacco consumption, particularly on children and adolescents; and
- (d) if so, the manner in which collaborative efforts of all the stakeholders will safeguard young people from the dangers of tobacco addiction?

**ANSWER**

**MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EDUCATION**

**(SHRI JAYANT CHOUDHARY)**

(a) & (b): Yes, the Tobacco-Free Educational Institutions (TOFEI) manual was developed and launched by Department of School Education & Literacy on World No Tobacco Day, 31st May 2024 in the presence of the representatives of all States and Union Territories (UTs), and subsequently disseminated vide a D.O. letter dated 18<sup>th</sup> June 2024. Additionally, a joint D.O. letter dated 18<sup>th</sup> September 2024, signed by the Secretaries of the Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, the Department of Higher Education and the Department of School Education & Literacy, was also issued to all States and UTs.

(c) & (d): As per Global Youth Tobacco Survey (GYTS) 2019, in India 8.5 percent of school students in the age group of 13 to 15 use tobacco in one or other form. The government has taken cognizance of the urgent need to protect young people from the harmful effects of tobacco and has actively fostered a collaborative approach involving all stakeholders to this end. Some of the key measures are; stringent enforcement of tobacco control policies, such as banning the sale of tobacco products within 100 yards of school premises, empowering schools to implement comprehensive tobacco awareness programs, train educators, and encourage student participation in peer-led anti-tobacco campaigns through community

awareness rallies, activities in schools, display of various signages like 'Tobacco Free Area', 'Tobacco Free Educational Institution' at entrance/boundary wall of educational institution with information of designated person and promoting parental involvement, and youth-friendly activities in community setting to create a protective and supportive environment for children.

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