

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

**RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2019
TO BE ANSWERED ON 18TH MARCH, 2025**

USE OF TOBACCO BY CHILDREN

2019. SHRI BHUBANESWAR KALITA:

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

- (a) whether Global Youth Survey Report has stated that school children, under the age of five years, are consuming tobacco;
- (b) whether Government has received any proposal or representation to address this deadly addiction of tobacco usage among the children; and
- (c) if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

**THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND
FAMILY WELFARE
(SHRI PRATAPRAO JADHAV)**

(a): The Global Youth Tobacco Survey (GYTS) conducted by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MoHFW) is a national-level survey which collects data regarding tobacco use among students between the ages of 13 to 15 years enrolled in schools. As per the findings of the GYTS-4 (2019), 8.4% of youth in India currently consume tobacco, in any form. GYTS does not provide for information for tobacco consumption under the age of five years.

(b) and (c): MoHFW has been implementing the National Tobacco Control Programme (NTCP) since 2007-08. NTCP aims 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 “The Cigarettes and Other Tobacco Products (Prohibition of Advertisement and Regulation of Trade and Commerce, Production, Supply and Distribution) Act, 2003” (COTPA),
- 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.

Currently, the Programme is being implemented in all 36 States and Union Territories across the country and has resulted in the provision of dedicated funds and manpower for implementation of the Programme. Every year States and UTs submit proposals for the implementation of the programme and related tobacco control laws.

Under the programme, MoHFW has launched various initiatives to address tobacco consumption among youth. The Ministry has launched the revised Guidelines for Tobacco Free Educational Institutions (ToFEI) in 2019 to raise awareness about tobacco's harmful effects and create tobacco-free educational institutes. Since 2023, MoHFW has launched the annual Tobacco Free Youth Campaign to educate and empower young people to resist or quit tobacco use, with a focus on social media engagement. Additionally, under Section 6 of the Cigarettes and Other Tobacco Products Act (COTPA), 2003, sale of tobacco products to individuals under 18 years of age and within 100 yards of educational institutions is prohibited. MoHFW has also enacted the Prohibition of Electronic Cigarettes Act (PECA), 2019, which prohibits the production, manufacture, import, export, transport, sale, distribution, storage, and advertisement of electronic cigarettes and similar devices to prevent youth as well as adults from initiating use of electronic cigarettes and like devices.
