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

RAJYA SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.929 TO BE ANSWERED ON 11TH FEBRUARY, 2025

IMPLEMENTATION OF COTPA AMENDMENTS

929. DR. MEDHA VISHRAM KULKARNI:

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

- (a) whether the Government has the latest information on the progress of implementation of the Cigarettes and Other Tobacco Products Act (COTPA) amendments and any specific steps taken to reduce tobacco use among youth; if so, the details thereof;
- (b) the details of steps taken by the Government to restrict marketing and sale of alcohol and tobacco products near educational institutions; and
- (c) the status of the National De-Addiction Programme and how it is being expanded to meet the growing demand?

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

(a) Regarding implementation of the Cigarette and Other Tobacco Products Act (COTPA) amendments, it is stated that the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare proposed a draft COTPA Amendment bill 2020, which was placed in the public domain for seeking comments in 2021. The pre-legislative procedure of the Bill is under process.

The Ministry has taken various steps to reduce the tobacco use among the youth. Under Section 6 of the COTPA, 2003 a provision has been made to prohibit the sale of tobacco products to an individual below 18 years of age. Under this Act, selling of tobacco products within 100 yards of any educational Institute is prohibited. Accordingly, Ministry released a revised Guidelines for Tobacco-Free Educational Institutions (ToFEI) in 2019. The Ministry conducts Tobacco Free Youth Campaign every year, since 2023 for creating mass awareness at the grassroot level.

The Ministry enacted Prohibition of Electronic Cigarettes Act (PECA), 2019 to prohibit the production, manufacture, import, export, transport, sale, distribution, storage, and advertisement of electronic cigarettes and similar devices, which are harmful and has potential for initiating tobacco use amongst youth.

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(b) Ministry of Health and Family Welfare has issued ToEFI Guidelines for enacting Section 6(b) of COTPA, 2003 which restrict the sale of tobacco products within 100 yards of educational institutes.

The Department of School Education & Literacy, Ministry of Education has also released ToEFI Manual to implement nine anti-tobacco activities. The State/UT Nodal Officers monitor compliance of the same.

As per the Section 77 of the Juvenile Justice Act, 2015 enacted by Ministry of Women and Child Development, giving intoxicating liquor (e.g. alcohol) or any narcotic drug or tobacco products or psychotropic substance to a child under 18 years of age, except by a doctor's order, is prohibited and punishable.

(c) The Ministry of Health and Family Welfare is implementing Drugs De-Addication Programme (DDAP) for providing treatment to the drug addicted patient. The programme is being implemented through six Central Government Hospitals and 27 Drug Treatment Clinics (DTCs) for which funds are directly provided to these Health Facilities. The drug deaddiction centers established in these six central Government Hospitals provide both indoor and outdoor treatment (IPD & OPD) as well as counselling services to the drug addicted patients. The DTCs provide OPD treatment and counselling services.
