

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

**RAJYA SABHA
STARRED QUESTION NO. 167
TO BE ANSWERED ON THE 05TH AUGUST, 2025**

**REGULATING SALE AND CONSUMPTION OF TOBACCO AND ALCOHOL IN RELIGIOUS
AND HERITAGE CITIES**

167 SHRI SATNAM SINGH SANDHU:

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

- (a) whether Government proposes to prohibit or regulate the sale and consumption of tobacco and alcohol in and around religious and heritage cities across the country;
- (b) if so, the details of any policy or guidelines issued in this regard;
- (c) whether such regulations exist around cities like Amritsar, Shri Anandpur Sahib, Varanasi, and Bodh Gaya; and
- (d) the mechanism for enforcement and penalties for violation, if applicable?

**ANSWER
THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE
(SHRI JAGAT PRAKASH NADDA)**

- (a) to (d) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

**STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO RAJYA SABHA
STARRED QUESTION NO. 167 * FOR 5TH AUGUST, 2025**

(a) to (d): The Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MoH&FW) has enacted the Cigarettes and Other Tobacco Products (Prohibition of Advertisement and Regulation of Trade and Commerce, Production, Supply and Distribution) Act (COTPA), 2003 to regulate the sale and consumption of tobacco products in all States/UTs. Section 4 of COTPA prohibits smoking in public places. As per the Act, 'public place' means any place to which the public have access, whether as of right or not, and includes auditorium, hospital buildings, railway waiting room, amusement centres, restaurants, public offices, court buildings, educational institutions, libraries, public conveyances and the like which are visited by general public. Under Section 21 of the Act, whoever contravenes the provisions of section 4 shall be punishable with fine which may extend to Rs.200.

Health is a State subject, and every State/UT has the power to implement measures that will strengthen tobacco control in its jurisdiction. The primary responsibility of enforcement of tobacco control laws lies with States/UTs.

The entry 8 in List-II (State List) of the Seventh Schedule to the Constitution provides that the production, manufacture, possession, transport, purchase and sale of liquor is a State subject.

The Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment has launched Nasha Mukta Bharat Abhiyaan (NMBA) to reach out to the masses and spread awareness about substance use including alcohol.

The MoH&FW has launched National Tobacco Control Programme (NTCP) in 2007–08 and is implemented in all 36 States/UTs through National, State, and District Tobacco Control Cells with the aim to ensure effective implementation of the provisions under COTPA 2003, discourage the use of tobacco, create awareness about the harmful effects of tobacco consumption through regular and sustained public awareness campaigns. The MoH&FW has launched an annual 60-day Tobacco Free Youth Campaign since 2023, to generate information and awareness about the harmful effects of tobacco products and to intensify various measures under COTPA.

State Governments and Union Territories notify authorized personnel as per the provisions of COTPA as well as constitute enforcement squads as per the operational guidelines of the National Tobacco Control Programme, for enforcement and imposing of penalties as per laid down provisions.
