

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

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.3290
TO BE ANSWERED ON 12TH JULY, 2019**

DISPLAYING CONTENTS ON TOBACCO PACKETS

3290. SHRI OMPRAKASH BHUPALSINH ALIAS PAWAN RAJENIMBALKAR:

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

- (a) whether the Government has made a provision to display the contents of tobacco/nicotine and other substances on the packets of cigarettes and other tobacco products being sold in the country, if so, the details thereof;
- (b) whether the Government have notified the above mentioned provisions, if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether the current infrastructure is adequate for testing the tobacco products, if so, the details thereof; and
- (d) if not, the steps being taken by the Government to augment the required institutional capacity for testing of tobacco products in the country, State/UT-wise?

**ANSWER
THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND
FAMILY WELFARE
(SHRI ASHWINI KUMAR CHOUBEY)**

(a) & (b): Section-7(5) of the Cigarettes and other Tobacco products (Prohibition of Advertisement and Regulations of Trade and Commerce Production, Supply and Distribution) Act, 2003 (COTPA, 2003) stipulates that No person shall, directly or indirectly, produce, supply or distribute cigarettes or any other tobacco products unless every package of cigarettes or any other tobacco products produced, supplied or distributed by him indicates thereon, or on its label, the nicotine and tar contents on each cigarette or as the case may be on other tobacco products along with the maximum permissible limits thereof: Provided that the nicotine and tar contents shall not exceed the maximum permissible quantity thereof as may be prescribed by rules made under this Act.

However, the above Section has not been made effective due to the fact that the said provision is not in line with the guidelines of World Health Organization Framework Convention on Tobacco Control (WHO FCTC) that cautions all member parties from displaying any

quantitative statements on tobacco product packaging and labelling. The available medical evidence also suggests that there is no safe level for nicotine and tar contents and as such there cannot be any permissible limit thereof in the cigarettes or other tobacco products. Further the provision relating to display of maximum permissible limits of tar and nicotine contents is also susceptible to misuse to promote tobacco products 'as safer products'.

(c) & (d): Three National Tobacco Testing Laboratories (NTTL), each one, in the campus of Regional Drugs Testing Laboratory, Guwahati, Central Drugs Testing Laboratory, Mumbai and National Institute of Cancer Prevention & Research, Noida have been set up for testing of tobacco products.