

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

**LOK SABHA  
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2758  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 4<sup>TH</sup> AUGUST 2023**

**ILLCIT TOBACCO PRODUCTS**

**2758. SHRI FEROZE VARUN GANDHI:  
SHRI DIPSINH SHANKARSINH RATHOD:  
SHRI MOHANBHAI KALYANJI KUNDARIYA:**

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

- (a) whether the Government is aware that illicit tobacco products are available in Indian markets;
- (b) whether the Government has undertaken/commissioned any study to determine the quantum of such illicit products available in the Indian markets;
- (c) if so, the details thereof along with the findings of such study;
- (d) if not, the reasons therefor;
- (e) whether the Government has taken/proposes to take any steps to prevent the sale and distribution of illicit tobacco products in Indian market; and
- (f) if so, the details thereof?

**ANSWER  
THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND  
FAMILY WELFARE  
(PROF. S.P. SINGH BAGHEL)**

**(a) to (f):** Government of India is Party to WHO Framework Convention on Tobacco Control (WHO FCTC) and has ratified the Protocol to Eliminate Illicit Trade in Tobacco Products, adopted under the (Article 15) of WHO FCTC. as per the Protocol, supply chain of tobacco products needs to be secured through a series of measures by governments viz. track and trace mechanism, licensing, record keeping requirements, regulation of Internet-sales, duty-free sales and international transit.

Further, as per inputs received from Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs (CBIC), Ministry of Finance, illicit cigarettes on account of smuggling across borders and domestic tax evasion are seized by field formations under CBIC. As per the Smuggling in India Report (2021-22), Directorate of Intelligence (DRI) has seized smuggled cigarettes and tobacco products worth more than Rs. 93 crore in 2021-22. As per information from CBIC, the field formations of Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs (CBIC) and Directorate

General of Revenue Intelligence (DRI) keep constant vigil on import/ supply of illicit tobacco products and on detection of cases, strict action is taken in accordance with Customs Act, 1962 and other existing provisions of law, as applicable.

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