

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF EDUCATION
DEPARTMENT OF SCHOOL EDUCATION AND LITERACY
LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2934
ANSWERED ON 07/08/2023

Tobacco Shops Near Schools

†2934. SHRI SUNIL KUMAR:

Will the Minister of EDUCATION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the children are getting addicted to tobacco due to the proximity of tobacco shops near their schools in various States across the country;
- (b) if so, the steps taken by the Government to check this issue and whether it is enacting any law in this regard; and
- (c) if so, the details thereof, if not, the reasons therefor?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EDUCATION
(SHRIMATI ANNPURNA DEVI)

(a) to (c): Central Government has enacted the Cigarettes and other Tobacco Products (Prohibition of Advertisement and Regulation of Trade and Commerce, Production, Supply and Distribution) Act, 2003 (COTPA 2003), to discourage use of tobacco, with emphasis on protection of children and young people from being addicted to the use of tobacco. As per Section 6 (a) of Cigarettes and Other Tobacco Products (Prohibition of Advertisement and Regulation of Trade and Commerce, Production, Supply and Distribution) Act, 2003 (COTPA, 2003) read with Cigarettes and Other Tobacco Products (Prohibition of Advertisement and Regulation of Trade and Commerce, Production, Supply and Distribution) Amendment Rules, 2011, there is prohibition on sale of tobacco products to and by persons below the age of 18 years and as per Section 6 (b) of COTPA, 2003, there is prohibition on sale of tobacco products in an area within a radius of one hundred yards of any educational institution.

Revised Guidelines for 'Tobacco free Educational Institutions (TOFEI)' have been developed by Ministry of Health and Family Welfare for effective implementation of Section-6 of COTPA, 2003. The guidelines were circulated to all States/UTs by Department of School Education and Literacy for

effective implementation of these guidelines in all educational institutions vide letter dated 17.09.2019 and reiterated vide letters dated 18.12.2020, 08.01.2021 and 07.07.2022. These guidelines lay down the roles & responsibilities of different stakeholders' viz. Central Government: State Governments: Educational Institutions and Civil Society Organization for making Educational Institution tobacco free. Public Health is a State subject and the primary responsibility for enforcement of the Act lies with the State Governments.

Further, under the School Health and Wellness Programme (SHP) under Ayushman Bharat, special classes and experiential learning activities like Role Play, Folk Dance, Poster making, Creative writing, Debate, Discussion and Skill Building activities are organised with school students for awareness generation on issues related to tobacco, drug / substance misuse. The Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) has introduced Life-Skills education as a part of curriculum in the schools affiliated to it. Life-skills enable students to abstain from tobacco and other addictive substances. CBSE schools follow textbooks of NCERT which have content related to drug abuse including the ill effects of tobacco in the syllabus of Classes VIII, XI and XII. CBSE has also been issuing periodic circulars to schools affiliated to it for sensitizing all students about ill-effects of tobacco.

In addition, 'Guidelines on School Safety and Security' developed by the Department, inter-alia, contain provisions for fixing the accountability of school management, various stakeholders and different departments in ensuring the safety and security of children studying in Government Schools, Government-Aided Schools and Private Schools. These guidelines are advisory in nature and inter-alia include roles & responsibility of School/School Management for taking necessary action in case of sale of tobacco or any other intoxicating substances is noticed within 100 yards of the school premises.
