

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF COMMERCE & INDUSTRY  
DEPARTMENT FOR PROMOTION OF INDUSTRY AND INTERNAL TRADE**

**LOK SABHA**

**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 3626.  
TO BE ANSWERED ON WEDNESDAY, THE 17<sup>TH</sup> MARCH, 2021.**

**ILLEGAL CIGARETTE TRADE**

**3626. SHRI JAGDAMBIKA PAL:**

Will the Minister of **COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY** be pleased to state:

**वाणिज्य एवं उद्योग मंत्री**

- (a) whether there is an increase in the illegal cigarette trade in India and if so, the details thereof, year-wise since 2011 till date;
- (b) whether there are any estimates on the level of illegal cigarette trade in India and if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the steps taken by the Government to curb and stop the illegal cigarette trade in India along with the details and the outcome thereof;
- (d) whether the Government has any plans to ban sale of loose cigarettes in India or has taken up this proposal with State Governments and if so, details thereof;
- (e) the number and the details of States which have banned sale of loose cigarettes in the country;
- (f) whether the Government has taken cognizance of pollution caused by used cigarette buds and if so, the steps taken by the Government to curb such pollution through cigarette buds?

**ANSWER**

**वाणिज्य एवं उद्योग मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्री सोम प्रकाश)**

**THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE & INDUSTRY  
(SHRI SOM PARKASH)**

- (a):** As per data provided by Central Board of Indirect taxes and Customs (CBIC), the details of the illegal cigarette trade in India since 2011 till date is enclosed at Annexure-I.
- (b):** CBIC has informed that World Health Organisation estimated illicit cigarette in India at 6% of the markets in 2016-17.
- (c):** The field formations of Central Board of Indirect taxes and Customs (CBIC) and the Directorate General of Revenue

Intelligence (DGRI) keep constant vigil on the illicit imports/smugglings of cigarettes. On detection of cases, strict action is taken in accordance with the Customs Act, 1962 and other existing provisions of laws, as applicable. Further, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare has acceded to the Protocol to eliminate illicit trade in tobacco products as adopted under Article 15 of the World Health Organization Framework Convention on Tobacco Control (WHO FCTC), to which India is a party, to develop the tracking and tracing mechanism.

**(d) & (e):** Section-7 of the Cigarettes and Other Tobacco Products (Prohibition of Advertisement and Regulation of Trade and Commerce, Production, Supply and Distribution) Act, 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 bears thereon, or on its label, the specified warning. States/UTs of Uttarakhand, Chandigarh, Jharkhand, Punjab, Mizoram, Sikkim, Uttar Pradesh, Jammu & Kashmir, Gujarat, Karnataka and Himachal Pradesh have issued specific Notifications/Orders for prohibiting sale of loose cigarettes/tobacco products.

**(f):** Government of India got a study carried out by Indian Institute of Toxicology Research (IITR), Lucknow to assess "Whether cigarette and bidi butts fall within category of toxic waste or not". The observations of the study are enclosed at Annexure-II. Further, for the environment protection, guidelines for disposal of cigarette/bidi butts is under preparation by Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB).

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**ANNEXURE-I**

**ANNEXURE REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PART (a) OF THE LOK SABHA  
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 3626 FOR ANSWER ON 17.03.2021.**

**Details of illegal cigarette trade in India**

Year	Value of the cigarette seized (Rs. in Crore)
2011-12	3.52
2012-13	23.42
2013-14	20.91
2014-15	94.06
2015-16	2395.82
2016-17	241.61
2017-18	1893.01
2018-19	169.59
2019-20	187.58
2020-21(up to Feb 21)	1772.02

Note: Value of seizures includes both smuggling across borders and domestic tax evasion.

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## **ANNEXURE-II**

### **ANNEXURE REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PART (f) OF THE LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 3626 FOR ANSWER ON 17.03.2021.**

Observations of Indian Institute of Toxicology Research on “Whether cigarette and bidi butts fall within category of toxic waste or not”

1. The analysis of the cigarette/bidi butts reflect that as per the concentration of various parameters analyzed are lower than the prescribed limits and will not be toxic to human and environment.
2. Cellulose acetate is major component of cigarette/ bidi butts and its degradation shows it will persist for a longer duration. The degradation studies under natural environment conditions and laboratory simulating conditions will be required to conclude safety/toxicity of cigarette/bidi butts to further correlate with human health risk assessment.

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