

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

**LOK SABHA  
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 3122  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 6<sup>TH</sup> AUGUST, 2021**

**REGULATION TO CURB UNDERAGE TOBACCO CONSUMPTION**

3122: SHRIMATI MANEKA SANJAY GANDHI:

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

- (a) whether the Government proposes to bring a regulation to increase the age limit for tobacco consumption from 18 to 21;
- (b) if so, the details and the timeline thereof; and
- (c) the other steps being taken by the Government to address underage tobacco consumption in the country'?

**ANSWER  
THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND  
FAMILY WELFARE  
(DR. BHARATI PRAVIN PAWAR)**

(a) & (b): In the draft Cigarettes and Other Tobacco Products (Prohibition of Advertisement and Regulation of Trade and Commerce, Production, Supply and Distribution) (Amendment) Bill, 2020, hosted in public domain for pre-legislative consultation, there is a provision related to this issue. The Ministry has received a large number of representations, comments and suggestions on the draft Bill, which are under examination.

(c): 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.

Public Health is a State subject and the primary responsibility for enforcement of the Act, lies with the State Governments. The Union Government has requested the State Governments to undertake enforcement drives for effective implementation of these provisions of COTPA, 2003. The Ministry has also issued the "Guidelines for Tobacco Free Educational Institution (Revised)" for effective implementation of Section-6 of COTPA, 2003, on 31<sup>st</sup> May, 2019; and has requested the States for effective implementation of these Guidelines.

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