

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF COMMERCE & INDUSTRY
(DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE)

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2406
TO BE ANSWERED ON 16th MARCH, 2022

LICENSING OF TOBACCO PRODUCTS

2406. SHRI HEMANT SRIRAM PATIL:

Will the Minister of **COMMERCE & INDUSTRY** (वाणिज्य एवं उद्योग मंत्री) be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government is likely to issue a licensing policy for tobacco to control consumption and to bring products such as smokeless and other tobacco products under its control;
- (b) if so, the details thereof.
- (c) whether as per media reports illicit trade of tobacco products is taking place across the country inspite of India being signatory of WHO Framework Convention on Tobacco Control (FCTC); and
- (d) if so, the details of the steps taken by the Government to promote ratification, acceptance and approval of the protocol to eliminate illicit trade of tobacco products?

ANSWER

वाणिज्य एवं उद्योग मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्रीमती अनुप्रिया पटेल)

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY
(SMT. ANUPRIYA PATEL)

(a) & (b): At present 'Cigars, cheroots, cigarillos and cigarettes, of tobacco or of tobacco substitutes' (HS Code 2402) are under compulsory licensing. Other tobacco products including ENDS devices are not under licensing. Furthermore, under the Industries (Development and Regulation) Act, 1951, only 'Cigarettes' are covered under entry number 38(1) of the First Schedule. Therefore, the remaining tobacco products lie outside the competence of Central Government and controlled through States/UTs."

(c) & (d) : India is signatory to the WHO Framework Convention on Tobacco Control (FCTC) and is implementing various demand and Supply reduction measures for tobacco control. Government of India has acceded to the protocol to eliminate illicit trade of tobacco products under Article 15 of WHO FCTC. The treaty instrument was deposited at UN Treaty Section, New York on 05.06.2018.
