

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

**LOK SABHA  
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 3236  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 5<sup>TH</sup> AUGUST, 2022**

**EFFECT OF TOBACCO ON COVID-19 PATIENTS**

**3236 SHRI RAJENDRA AGRAWAL:**

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

- (a) whether a study has been conducted to find out the effects of tobacco consumption especially cigarettes, bidi and other tobacco products on the health of COVID-19 patients;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) if not, the reasons therefor?

**ANSWER**

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

(a) to (c): Based on the available scientific evidence and consistent with the WHO statement on tobacco use and COVID-19 issued on 11 May 2020 (accessed at <https://www.who.int/news/item/11-05-2020-who-statement-tobacco-use-and-covid-19>), where it is mentioned that “ COVID-19 is an infectious disease that primarily attacks the lungs. Smoking impairs lung function making it harder for the body to fight off coronaviruses and other diseases. Tobacco is also a major risk factor for noncommunicable diseases like cardiovascular disease, cancer, respiratory disease and diabetes which put people with these conditions at higher risk for developing severe illness when affected by COVID-19. Available research suggests that smokers are at higher risk of developing severe disease and death.” The ministry has issued an advisory on 28-07-2020 regarding “COVID -19 Pandemic and Tobacco use in India.” A copy of the said advisory is available at <https://www.mohfw.gov.in/pdf/COVID19PandemicandTobaccoUseinIndia.pdf>

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