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

LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.816 TO BE ANSWERED ON 29TH NOVEMBER 2024

"INCREASING TAXES ON TOBACCO"

816. SHRI VISHALDADA PRAKASHBAPU PATIL:

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

- (a) whether the 139th and 147th report of the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Health observed that India has one of the lowest prices of tobacco in the world and recommended increasing taxes on tobacco to generate revenue for cancer awareness and prevention in the country and if so, the details thereof;
- (b) whether the Government has undertaken an estimation on the additional revenue that is likely to be generated from the 16% increase in Natural Calamity and Contingent Duty (NCCD) on certain cigarettes announced in the Budget 2023;
- (c) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor,
- (d) whether the Government proposes to utilize the additional revenue for cancer research and awareness as recommended by the Standing Committee; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

ANSWER THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI PRATAPRAO JADHAV)

(a) to (e) Yes. The Government of India launched the National Tobacco Control Programme (NTCP) in the year 2007-08 with the aim of raising awareness about the harmful effects of tobacco use, to help people quit the habit and to reduce the prevalence and burden of cancer and tobacco-related diseases. Under the Cigarettes and Other Tobacco Products Act (COTPA), 2003, real-life images of cancer patients and textual warning labels are displayed on tobacco product packaging to further enhance public awareness.

The Department of Revenue informed that the Natural Calamity and Contingent Duty (NCCD) was estimated to about Rs.1100 Crore based on annualized figures for FY 2022-23 (Up to Oct 2022).
