

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

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1079
TO BE ANSWERED ON 25TH JULY, 2025**

INCREASING SALE OF PAN MASALA AND ZARDA

1079. SHRI APPALANAIDU KALISETTI:

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

- (a) whether the Government is aware that despite the ban on Gutkha since 2013, the sale of Pan Masala and Zarda (chewing tobacco) as separate products continues across the country, undermining tobacco control efforts and contributing to the rising burden of oral cancers and if so, the details thereof;
- (b) whether the Government proposes to take immediate steps to regulate Zarda more stringently including addressing the “twin-pack loophole” and strengthening legal controls and if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the details of latest available data on oral cancer incidence, prevalence and mortality over the last five years State/UT-wise and year-wise;
- (d) whether the Government has assessed the extent of tax evasion, illicit trade and unregulated manufacturing in the Zarda sector and if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the steps being taken by the Government to strengthen enforcement, licensing, taxation and inter-agency coordination to reduce the public health impact and revenue losses from oral tobacco products?

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

(a) to (c): The standards of pan masala are prescribed under sub-regulation 2.11.5 of Food Safety and Standards (Food Product Standards and Food Additives) Regulations, 2011. No standards of gutka are prescribed under these regulation. Any manufacturer of pan masala is required to comply with the requirements specified under the above stated sub regulation.

Further, as per the Food Safety and Standards (Prohibition and Restriction of Sales) Regulation, 2011, Tobacco and nicotine shall not be used as ingredients in any food products.

(d) & (e): Department of Revenue has informed that illegal trade in tobacco products is a clandestine activity, the loss in revenue cannot be accurately estimated. However, Central Goods and Services Tax (CGST) zones and Directorate General of Goods and Service Tax Intelligence (DGGI) have detected 61 cases of Guthka/Chewing Tobacco/Cigarettes/ Pan Masala involving tax amounting to Rs.104.38 crore approximately in the current financial year upto June 2025.

For steps taken to strengthen the enforcement action, the DGGI and CGST field formations have been sensitised to verify and enhance the level of compliance of registered taxpayers and also to identify unregistered entities so as to bring them in the tax net.
