

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

**RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2505
TO BE ANSWERED ON 11TH AUGUST, 2015**

INCREASE IN SMOKING HABITS DESPITE DISINCENTIVES

2505. DR. K. KESHAVA RAO:

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

- (a) whether the incidence of smoking had gone up in recent years, despite disincentives;
- (b) whether the Ministry is aware that on increasing the tax on cigarettes, the lengths of the cigarettes have been reduced to check mate the tax hike;
- (c) whether a WHO report on Global Tobacco Epidemic states that cigarettes have become 15 per cent cheaper in India between 2008 and 2014;
- (d) if so, what steps the Ministry envisages to counter these; and
- (e) whether the Ministry is aware of the 'plain packaging laws' of Australia which disincentivises smoking?

**ANSWER
THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE
(SHRI JAGAT PRAKASH NADDA)**

- (a): There is no such data to indicate that the incidence of smoking has gone up in recent years.
- (b): As per the information provided by Ministry of Finance, the production data of first 3 months of 2015-16 indicates that production of Cigarettes of all lengths has declined over the corresponding period of 2014-15. However, decline in production of Cigarettes of shorter length (not exceeding 65mm) is less than the decline in overall production of cigarettes.
- (c) As per the WHO report on Global Tobacco Epidemic, (2015) the cigarettes have become cheaper in India between 2008 and 2014.
- (d) To counter this, in Budget, 2014-15, Excise duty on cigarettes was increased by 17% to 72% for different lengths of Cigarettes. In Budget, 2015-16, Excise Duty rate on Cigarettes was further increased by 15% to 25% for various lengths of cigarettes.
- (e): The Ministry is aware of the Plain Packaging laws of Australia.
