

**Law on Tobacco Control shall be implemented within one week:  
Minister of State for Health**  
**I will stage fasting to raise tax on tobacco products: Ex-Health Minister**



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Speaking during the interaction titled Public Health Promotion: Tobacco Products Control and Regulatory, organized in Capital by Ministry of Health and Population, Forum for Health Journalists, Action Nepal and The Union, the Minister of State for Health Hon'ble Padma Aryal directed the Tobacco Manufacturers to enforce standard prescribed by the Government that all people should comply with the law. Surya Nepal has been procrastinating to implement despite it has been passed four years that Government of Nepal had enforced mandatory law for labeling of 90% warning message in the Boxes, Packets, Wrappers, Cartons, Parcels and Packaging of Tobacco Products.

Despite Ministry has repeatedly informed about the said rule to Surya Tobacco and the said Company has not complied with the rule, she further stated that the Ministry will commence the process of action within one month. She extended warning that the Ministry will bring the Tobacco Industries under scrutiny of the law who are procrastinating to label 90% warning message in the packets of tobacco products. "I have heard that Surya Tobacco Company is procrastinating to implement law. Why it's doing so? It will be inquired since tomorrow and I would like to express commitment to find out the reason and bring them under implementation phase. All should comply with the law on tobacco controlling as amended by the Government before three years", she stressed.

She further stated that she has taken the said Act into implementation phase by declaring the Ministry of Health as tobacco-free zone after immediately assuming the post in the Ministry and informed that she would strictly enforce within premises of Singhdarbar. She stated that the Ministry has preceded the proposal in up-coming year's policy and programme to raise rate of tax up-to 70% to be levied in the tobacco products. However, the Government has been levying 28% tax in cigarette and tobacco products which is lowest in South Asia.

Ex-Health Minister and Chief Whip of CPN UML Khaga Raj Adhikari stated that though Government constituted best Act but it is matter of sad for failing to fully implement the said Act and he stressed for immediately implementation. He indicated name of the Company that the Government should immediately take action against Surya Tobacco Company who is procrastinating the law.

He accused that the Government couldn't be sensible despite more than 25 thousand people are dying due to consumption of tobacco products per year. "However, death of 17 thousand people in 10-year long armed conflict is declared as international case but the state fears to regulate tobacco products which killing 25 thousand people in a year. What may be ridicule than this fact?", he counter-questioned.

Whip Adhikari expressed his intention that he was ready to stage fasting in the Ministry of Finance advising to raise tax of tobacco up-to 70%.

Speaking in the programme, Brishesh Chandra Lal, Parliamentarian of National Assembly and Vice-President of Rastriya Janata Party, stated that youths involve in consuming tobacco to hint and they will fall into addiction, so, student centered programmes should be introduced. He further informed that he will fully take initiative to raise range of the tax.

Parliamentarian of Nepali Congress Prakash Snehi stated that health is the biggest principle for the prosperity. He stressed that all stakeholders should be committed for implementation of law and the Ministry of health should play coordinating role with other Ministries.

Parliamentarian of CPN UML Ram Kumari Jhankri stated that through there are best Policies and Rules but non-implementing attitude is dominating and procrastination seen in implementation of Tobacco Act is the example thereof. She stated that law

constituted by the Government is mandatory and stressed for its effective implementation.

Parliamentarian of Maoist Center Anjana Bisankhe stressed that there should be coordination between Ministry of Finance, Ministry of Home Affairs, Ministry of Industry and Ministry of Health for controlling of tobacco products.

Bidhya Sundar Shakya, Mayor of Kathmandu Metropolitan City, informed that Metropolitan has already started campaign on tobacco controlling and its solid result shall be seen after few times.

By expressing own opinions, Dr. Tara Singh Bom, Deputy Regional Director of The Union, got paid attention of the Government stating that tobacco products should be controlled to control the poverty. He requested to strictly engage citing that implementation part is extremely weak despite making best law on tobacco products controlling by the Government of Nepal. He stressed to raise tax to minimize tobacco products users' rate and stated that political commitment for that is so important. He stated that it is need of today to raise heavy rate of tax and implement health message 90% with printing of compulsory graphics and leadership level officials should pay attention thereof. "However, people with low incomes are using more quantity of tobacco products and they expend money on cigarettes and tobacco rather than fulfilling their primary needs and when price of cigarette should be hiked, then, they would fulfil their needs at first and minimize addiction thereto", he told. He stated that as cigarette can be purchased in the lowest price in Asia, one should be cautious thereof.

Ananda Bahadur Chand, President of Action Nepal, expressed grievance that Ministry of Health, Ministry of Industries, Ministry of Home Affairs and Department of Inland Revenue never heard despite making frequent reminders to implement Directive to control and regulate tobacco products. He accused that tobacco industries and staffs had complicity when Department of Inland Revenue had corresponded the letter before three years to print 90% graphics in packet of tobacco products which was disappeared on the way. Mr. Chand, President of Action Nepal, stated that implementation part is weak despite making best law by Nepal for controlling tobacco products.

Dr. Rajendra Pant, Dr. Niraj Bom, Dr. Ratna Mani Gajurel, Dr. Prakash Raj Regmi informed amid a programme about affects by the use of tobacco products in health.

Mahendra Prasad Shrestha, Speaker of Ministry of Health and Dr. Radhika Thapaliya, Chief Health Administrator, informed amid a programme about efforts and activities made by the Ministry on tobacco controlling.