

Newsletter

August 17

Office- #338, Phase-11, S.A.S Nagar (Mohali), Punjab



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TOBACCO INDUSTRY HITS PUNJAB AGAIN

ITC CEO Sanjiv Puri Met Punjab CM, Ensured 1700 Cr investment
Tax was reduced from 50 percent to 20.5 when they met in 2013

Tobacco industry once again eye state of Punjab and promises to invest 1700 cr in a Food Processing Plant. The same was highlighted after the meeting which was held between the CEO of ITC, Mr. Sanjeev Puri and Hon'ble Chief Minister of Punjab, Amarinder Singh. Punjab has been one of the pioneer states in the country to adopt the FCTC Article 5.3 Policy and form an Empowered Committee which is formed as per the orders of Governor of Punjab under the chairmanship of Principal Secretary, Department of Health and Family Welfare, Punjab. It is five members committee. Yet, the protocol was broken by

none other than the Chief Minister of the State.

The information about the meeting was out from the press reports and the details mentioned in it clearly indicated the wrong intentions of the Tobacco Industry. The state of Punjab is a non tobacco producing state, hence the industry has found out way through investing the Food Processing Plant as a first step towards getting the state government in a position, where they will be able to arm twist them when needed to weaken the State's tobacco control policies.

The move was objected by many civil society members and activists and the state

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Protocol to be followed while dealing with Tobacco Industry

(i) Public officials and employees shall limit interactions with the tobacco industry to those strictly necessary for its regulation and to ensure the transparency of those that occur.

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Tobacco Industry Hits Punjab Again

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government was pointed for expected dilution of health policies. Through letters and representations it was pointed that there has been a violation of the FCTC rules in Punjab. The Indian

Tobacco Company's CEO Mr. Sanjeev Puri met Chief Minister Amarinder Singh but the Protocol of the FCTC Article 5.3 policy formulated by the state government was not followed. Generation Saviour Association has written

to the Chief Minister demanding the explanation for this move and action violating the government framed law. Also through the letter the Organization has demanded a surety from the Government that the tobacco

control policies and laws will not be compromised, and that the source of the funding coming into the food processing plant should be scrutinized and made sure that no tobacco money is invested in the State.

Protocol to be followed while dealing with Tobacco ...

Government of Punjab
Department of Health & Family Welfare
(Health-V Branch)
Gazette Notification

No. 21/51/05-5HB5/ Dated, Chandigarh

Article 5.3 of WHO Framework Convention on Tobacco Control (FCTC) states that "in setting and implementing their public health policies with respect to tobacco control, tobacco industry in accordance with national law"

The Governor of Punjab is pleased to constitute an Empowered Committee to implement Article 5.3 of WHO Framework Convention on Tobacco Control needed by Principal Secretary, Government of Punjab, Department of Health & Family Welfare, in order to deal with any kind of interference by the Tobacco Industry in the implementation of Cigarettes & Other Tobacco Products Act (COTPA) 2003/2008 on flavoured or scented Tobacco under Food Safety & Standards Act of India declaration of Electronic Cigarettes (Electronic Nicotine Delivery Systems) as illegal & for considering the representations by Tobacco Industry. The Committee will have the following members:-

1. Principal Secretary (Home) or his representative	Member
2. Financial Commissioner, Taxation or his representative	Member
3. Secretary Health-cum-Commissioner FDA	Designating Special Officer
4. Director, Dept. of Information and Public Relations	Member
5. Director Health & Family Welfare, Punjab	Member Secretary

The Empowered Committee will ensure that proper protocols (enclosed) are followed while dealing with the Tobacco Industry.

Secretary, Health-cum-Commissioner FDA will be the Designating Special Officer to receive representations from the Tobacco Industry representatives & to decide whether they are required to be dealt with or not. The Member Secretary shall decide upon the date for meeting with the Tobacco Industry representatives, if required, in consultation with other members. The soundings of the meetings, when held will be submitted to Hon'ble Chief Secretary, Punjab.

The representation of the Tobacco Industry will be uploaded on official website of Department of Health & Family Welfare, Punjab. www.health.gov.in for the information of stakeholders.

Sd/-
Vini Mahajan, IAS
Principal Secretary, Government of Punjab
Department of Health & Family Welfare

Dated, Chandigarh
13-7-15

Encl.No. 21/51/05-5HB5/ dated, Chd

A copy is forwarded to the following for information and necessary action:

1. Principal Secretary, Home
2. Financial Commissioner, Taxation
3. Secretary, Health-cum-Commissioner FDA, Punjab
4. Director, Dept. of Information and Public Relations
5. Director, Health and Family Welfare, Punjab

Dharam Dhan
Under Secretary, Health

Encl No. 21/51/05-5HB5/ 539919/3 dated, Chd 13/7/15

A copy is forwarded to the Controller, Printing and Stationery, Punjab with a request to publish this notification in ordinary Gazette and send 100 copies to this department.

Dharam Dhan
Under Secretary, Health

Gazette Notification issued by Punjab Government

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(ii) In the event that a meeting is strictly necessary, officials and employees shall abide by the following rules:

1. Set the meeting agenda.
2. Ask the industry about what they want to discuss in writing and then decide whether to agree with the meeting or not. Stick to the agenda and make the meeting brief.
3. Clarify the goal and structure of the meeting.
4. Before the meeting, it must be made clear that such interaction does not imply partnership, dialogue or collaboration and indicate

it in writing to the tobacco industry that they may not mischaracterize the nature of the meeting.

5. Hold the meeting at the premises of the department/institution/agency/local government. Ensure that any photograph taken of this meeting is strictly for documentation purposes only and not for the public relations activities of the tobacco industry.
6. Predetermine the meeting participants by asking for the names and positions of those who will attend the meeting.
7. Moderate the meeting. A lawyer must be present and must closely advise the official/employee/representative during the meeting.

Code of Conduct for Public officials and employees

- a. They shall declare any interest in the tobacco industry.
 - b. They shall resign from his/her position in the tobacco industry within thirty (30) days from his assumption of office and/or divest himself of his shareholdings or interest within sixty (60) days from such assumption. (For the purpose of this rule, interest in the tobacco industry means personal, financial or other interest, including, but not limited to:
 - having an existing ownership or investment in the tobacco industry;
 - being a member of the Board of Directors, an officer of the corporation or a partner in a partnership in the tobacco industry;
 - receiving any contribution from the tobacco industry.)
 - c. They shall not demand or receive any contribution from the tobacco industry for themselves, their families, relatives, friends, or any other persons or organizations. Contributions shall include, but are not limited to, payments, gifts and services, monetary or in-kind, research funding, financial aid, policy drafts and legal advice.
 - d. They shall avoid the creation of any perception of real or potential partnership or cooperation with the tobacco industry, and shall publicly correct any perception of partnership that may have been created.
 - e. Public officials and employees of agencies which have a role in setting and implementing public health policies with respect to tobacco control, shall inform their institutions about any intention to engage in an occupational activity within the tobacco industry, whether gainful or not, within a specified period of time after leaving service; and to require applicants for such public office positions to declare any current or previous occupational activity with the Tobacco Industry.
10. Distribute information on the meetings as appropriate. Publicly correct any misinformation regarding the meeting.
 11. Decide on follow up questions that must be answered after the meeting.
 12. All non-mediated exchanges (in person, phone or email) between officials, employees and representatives of the agency should be avoided.



Progress Report for the Month of August, 2017

Association planned start up strategies to achieve the monthly targets fixed in the project review meeting. Many of these accomplishments are described in detail in this report.

A triumphant meeting with Mr. Anil Vij, Hon'ble Health Minister, Haryana was held to discuss the current status of tobacco control in the state and way forward for the effective implementation of Tobacco control. He also showed his full support and commitment for the same.

A letter written to Hon'ble Chief Minister of Punjab, Capt. Amrinder Singh to highlight the violation of FCTC Article 5.3 policy in the state, wherein it has been brought to the notice of the Chief Minister that the meeting of ITC CEO and State

Chief Minister was against the protocol of the State's notification. Demand for a vigilant



action against the proposal of ITC increasing the investment in food processing unit in Punjab has been made.

An enforcement drive organised in Mohali

with the help of various department.

Mapping of important stakeholders in all 22 districts of Haryana, 22 districts of Punjab & UT Chandigarh has been completed as per the standard mapping template.

Advocacy meeting held with Dr. Usha Gupta, Director, National Health Mission and Dr. Rajpal Sekhon, State Nodal Officer, National Tobacco Control Program, Haryana to constitute State Level Coordination Committee (SLCC) along with District Level Coordination

Committees (DLCC) in all 22 districts of the State. After the meeting a file was put up and moved to Principal Secretary (Health) Mr. Amit Jha for further approval and notifying the same.

More than 30 one to one meetings were held with various high level officials like Director, NHM, State Nodal Officer of all 3 states, District Nodal Officers, Superintendent of Municipal Corporation, Station House Officer (Police), Assistant Food Commissioner, Drug Inspector, Food Safety Officer, Representative of Civil Societies in Punjab, Haryana and Chandigarh.

A NEWSLETTER prepared and shared with important stakeholders to highlight the activities during the month of July, 2017.



Tobacco Control Program to be Implemented on Large Scale- Health Minister



Generation Saviour association had a meeting with Health Minister Haryana, S. Anil Vij and urged to speed up the work of Tobacco Control in the state. President of the association Ms. Opinder Preet Kaur discussed about the situation of tobacco control in the state and highlighted the things to be done immediately. She said that the Cigarette and Other Tobacco Products Act was passed by the BJP government in the year 2003 which was later implemented in the entire country. She told the Health Minister that every department has to be connected with the Tobacco Control Program in order to implement this law and awareness about the various sections of law and the harmful effects of tobacco to be spread in district level. Health Minister Shri Anil Vij assured the association that tobacco control programme will be implemented on large scale and directions will be sent to all the stakeholders soon.



Enforcement Drive against Illicit Tobacco Products



Illicit tobacco products detained during enforcement drive.



Activities



Members of the District Level Task Force and civil societies during the enforcement drive held at Mohali, Punjab.



