

No. Z.21020/19/2020-TC  
Government of India  
Ministry of Health & Family Welfare  
(Tobacco Control Division)

Nirman Bhawan, New Delhi  
Dated the 10th April, 2020

To,

The Chief Secretaries of all States/UTs

**Subject: COVID 19 and spitting of Smokeless Tobacco in Public - regarding.**

Sir/Madam,

I am directed to refer to the subject mentioned above and to say that Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR), Department of Health Research, Govt. of India has issued an appeal to the General Public namely "Not to consume and spit Smokeless Tobacco in Public".

2. As per the appeal "*Chewing Smokeless Tobacco products, Paan masala and areca nut (supari) increases the production of saliva followed by a very strong urge to spit. Spitting in public places could enhance the spread of the COVID19 virus*". In view of the increasing danger of COVID-19 pandemic, ICMR has appealed the general public to refrain from consuming the smokeless tobacco products and spitting in public places during the COVID epidemic.

3. The State/UT Governments have necessary authority under the Epidemic Diseases Act,1897, the Disaster Management Act, 2005 and also under various provisions of Indian Penal Code 1860 and Code of Criminal Procedure (CrPc) to deal with Covid-19.

4. In this background, it is requested that necessary preventive measures may be taken under the appropriate law to prohibit the use and spitting of chewing smokeless tobacco products in public.

5. This issues with the approval of the competent authority.

Yours faithfully,

(Pradip Kumar Pal)

Under Secretary to the Government of India

Tel: 011-23063019

1. Principal Secretary/Secretaries (Health) of all States/UTs
2. State Nodal Officers for Tobacco Control of all States/UTs
3. Chief Media Officer, PIB, MOHFW, Nirman Bhavan, New Delhi.