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- Karnataka government bans sale of loose cigarettes, tobacco products with immediate effect

Karnataka government bans sale of loose cigarettes, tobacco products with immediate effect

Niranjan K N / Updated: Sep 27, 2017, 22:41 IST

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Trying its best to clamp down on puffing away in public places, the state government on Wednesday took a bold step by issuing a formal notification banning loose sale of cigarettes, beedis and chewing tobacco products with immediate effect.

Previously, the Karnataka government had banned all forms of chewing tobacco aligning itself with the orders of the Supreme Court.

Sources in the Health and Family Welfare department revealed to Bangalore Mirror that blanket ban on smoking in public places has cut down on number of smokers considerably. However the loose sale of tobacco products spurred the practise as the smokers continued with the habit by picking up couple of cigarettes from shops. But health volunteers, oncologists and others have been urging the government to impose ban on even the loose sale of cigarettes, beedis and chewing tobacco products in the greater interest of the public health.

“Banning loose sales of tobacco products prompts people to buy them in larger quantities and it would pinch their pockets. As many would have picked up the habits without the notice of their family members would fear to buy products in such large quantities and think towards quitting the habit,” a senior officer of the health department revealed.

Even though the government notification was issued on 11 September, the order has come to light towards the end of the month.

As per the notification, a copy of which is with BM, loose sale of cigarettes, beedis and all forms of chewable tobacco has been banned with immediate effect as per the provisions under the Cigarettes and Other Tobacco Products (Prohibition of Advertisement and Regulation of Trade, Commerce, Production, Supply and Distribution) Act 2003 (COTPA) “Any person found violating the provisions of the act and order will be punished as per the provisions under the section 20 of the COTPA Act,” the notification said.

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