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THIS STORY IS FROM MARCH 21, 2012

Quit smoking, minister tells legislators

TNN / Updated: Mar 21, 2012, 04:50 IST

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PATNA: State health minister [Ashwini Kumar Chaubey](#) on Tuesday advised [legislators](#) to give up the habit of smoking and chewing tobacco. The [minister](#) said in the Bihar Legislative Council that a large number of legislators smoke and chew tobacco products. Over 40% cancer patients die of mouth cancer, he added. Replying to a question of Binod Kumar Chaudhary (JD-U), the minister advised legislators to [quit smoking](#) and chewing tobacco in any form. Consumption of tobacco products is very harmful for health. One must quit tobacco to lead a disciplined lifestyle," he said. The minister said the government has launched cancer awareness programmes in six district hospitals. For the national tobacco prevention programme, the government is conducting projects on a pilot basis in Patna and Munger districts. The state government has already set up anti-tobacco cells in seven districts. Each cell is manned by a nodal officer. The government has also declared the Indian Public School in Vaishali and Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalaya, Haveli Kharagpur, Munger, as a tobacco-free zone. Civil surgeons have been asked to put up display boards in the outpatient departments of the state hospitals with the slogan "Choose life, not tobacco", he said. Those found smoking at public places would be liable to pay a fine up to Rs 200, he added. The minister also said the government has no authentic data on cancerous elements in adulterated food.

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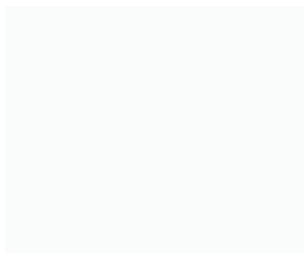
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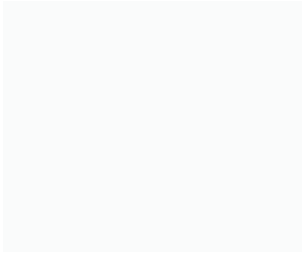
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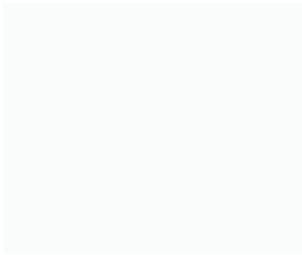
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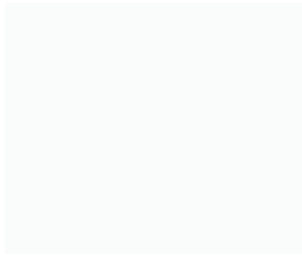
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