

GOVERNMENT OF ANDHRA PRADESH  
ABSTRACT

HM & FW Department – COVID-19 – THE EPIDEMIC DISEASES ACT, 1897 - Prohibit the use and spitting of chewing smokeless tobacco products in public places – Orders – Issued.

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Health, Medical and Family Welfare (B) Department

G.O.RT.No. 237

Dated: 12-04-2020

Read:

Letter No. Z.21020/19-2020-TC, dated 10.04.2020 of the Under Secretary, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, ( Tobacco Control Division) Government of India, New Delhi.

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ORDER:

In the letter cited, the Under Secretary Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, ( Tobacco Control Division) Government of India, New Delhi has informed that the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR), Department of Health Research, GoI has issued an appeal to the general public viz., "Not to consume and spit Smokeless Tobacco in Public". As per the appeal "Chewing smokeless Tobacco Products, Paan-masala, and areca nut (supaari) increases the production of 'saliva' followed by a very strong urge to spit. Spitting in public places put enhance the spread of the Covid-19 virus". In view of the increasing danger of Covid-19 pandemic, ICMR has appealed the general public to refrain from consuming the smoke-less tobacco products and spitting in public places during the Covid-19 epidemic.

2. The Under Secretary, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, GoI has further informed that 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 and requested to issue necessary preventive measures to prohibit the use and spitting of chewing smokeless tobacco products in public.

3. It is observed that the COVID-19 Pandemic has brought to the fore the importance of hygiene and cleanliness in both personal as well as public sphere and that it is of outmost need to impose restrictions on unhealthy practices that may potentially lead to spread of such viruses and other infections. And whereas, the habit of public spitting poses a serious threat to the spread of such infections.

4. Keeping in view the provision under Section 2 of " The Epidemic Diseases Act, 1897 ( Act No. 3 of 1897)" and provisions made under "The Disaster Management Act, 2005", Government hereby order that the general public is hereby refrained from consuming the smokeless tobacco or chewable tobacco / non-tobacco product, sputum etc and spitting in public places / institutions with immediate effect during the Covid epidemic.

5. Violation of the above order is punishable under the provisions of Indian Penal Code -1860 and Code of Criminal Procedure (Cr.Pc).

6. The concerned authorities shall ensure in implementing the above orders in true letter and spirit.

(BY ORDER AND IN THE NAME OF THE GOVERNOR OF ANDHRA PRADESH)

DR. K.S.JAWAHAR REDDY  
SPECIAL CHIEF SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT

To

All the District Collectors in the State.

All the Superintendents of Police

The Commissioner of Police, Vijayawada / Visakhapatnam.

All Secretaries/Prl. Secretaries/Special Chief Secretaries

The Prl. Secy. to Govt., Home Dept.

The Prl. Secy to Govt. PR & RD Dept.

The Secretary, MA & UD Dept.

The DGP, AP Managalgiri.

The Commissioner, I & PR

( with a request to give wide publicity of the orders)

All HODs of H.M. & F.W. Dept.

All Municipal Commissioners of Corporations / Municipalities.

( through the MA & UD Department)

Copy to:

OSD to Dy.CM (HFW & ME)

PS to CS/ PS to Addl.C.S. to CM

//FORWARDED:: BY ORDER//

DEPUTY SECRETARY