

*Dwem*  
*05/21/25*

**GOVERNMENT OF TRIPURA**  
**DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE**

**NOTIFICATION**

The Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Government of India, has initiated the National Tobacco Control Programme with the aim and objective to implement policies to create awareness about the harmful effects of tobacco consumption, to reduce the production and supply of tobacco products and to ensure effective implementation of the provisions under "The Cigarettes and Other Tobacco Products (Prohibition of Advertisement and Regulation of Trade and Commerce Production, Supply and Distribution) Act, 2003" (COTPA)

1. Whereas, more than 13 lakh people die every year due to tobacco use in India. According to the Global Adult Tobacco Survey-II conducted in 2016-17 by Government of India, prevalence of tobacco use among adults in Tripura is 64.5% with 27.7% smoking form and 48.5% in smokeless form.
2. Whereas, in 2004 India has ratified World Health Organizations' Framework Convention on Tobacco Control (FCTC) and therefore obligated to uphold the provisions of the FCTC. Preamble of the FCTC recognised the need to be alert to any efforts by the tobacco industry to undermine or subvert tobacco control efforts and the need to be informed of activities of the tobacco industry that have a negative impact on tobacco control efforts.
3. Whereas, Article 5.3 of the WHO FCTC mandates that "in setting and implementing their public health policies with respect to tobacco control Parties shall act to protect these [tobacco control] policies from commercial and other vested interests of the tobacco industry in accordance with national law."
4. Therefore, in view of the above and in the interest of public health, to avoid any kind of interference by tobacco industry (registered / local manufacturer/ Seller/ any person or organisation intended to act as representative of the same) in the implementation of various provisions of tobacco control laws or any initiative taken or in consideration to reduce consumption of tobacco in any form in the state of Tripura, the undersigned is hereby pleased to constitute an empowered committee to implement the Article 5.3 of WHO Framework Convention on Tobacco Control headed by Secretary, Health and Family Welfare, Government of Tripura to deal with any kind of interference.

The committee will have following members:

I.	Secretary (Health)	Chairman
II.	Secretary (Home) or representative	Member
III.	Secretary (Education) or representative	Member
IV.	Principal Secretary (Commercial Tax) or representative	Member
V.	Secretary (Information and Public Relation) or representative	Member
VI.	Secretary (Industry) or representative	Member
VII.	Secretary (Urban Development) or representative	Member
VIII.	Secretary (Rural Development) or representative	Member
IX.	Commissioner, Food Safety and Drug	Member
X.	Mission Director, NHM	Designated Officer
XI.	Director, Health and Family Welfare	Member
XII.	State Nodal Officer (National Tobacco Control Programme)	Member Secretary

The committee will ensure proper compliance with the protocol (enclosed) and procedure to deal and engage with the tobacco industry or its representatives. Mission Director, NHM, Tripura shall be the special designated officer to receive any representation from the Tobacco Industry or its representatives & to decide the manner they are required to be dealt by the Committee. He will decide upon the date for meeting with the tobacco industry representative(s), if required in consultation with other members of the Committee. The representation and proceedings of the meeting will be uploaded on official website of National Health Mission and the Department of Health and Family Welfare, Government of Tripura for information of all stakeholders and the public in general.

All Heads of various Departments of the state are hereby directed to refer any communication/letter/representation from the tobacco industry to the Chairman or the Member Secretary of the above committee as and when received.

-Sd-  
(Chief Secretary)  
Government of Tripura

**Copy to: All Concerned**

To,  
Secretary In-charge of all Department / All Heads of Department Copy for kind information.

Copy for kind information to:

1. The Secretary to the Hon'ble Governor of Tripura, Agartala.
2. The Secretary to the Hon'ble Chief Minister, Tripura, Agartala.
3. The PS/PA to all Hon'ble Ministers, Tripura.
4. The PS/PA to the Chief Secretary, Tripura.
5. The Secretary Tripura Legislative Assembly, Agartala.
6. The Under Secretary, GA(C & C) Department, Tripura, Agartala.
7. The Accountant General (A&E) / Accountant General (Audit), Tripura, Agartala.
8. The Joint Director, Department of IT for uploading in the State Government Website.
9. The Web Administrator, Finance Department for uploading this Memorandum in the Web-portal of Finance Department.

Signed by

Dipa Debbarma

Date: 05.02.2025 13:07:01

(Under Secretary)

Government of Tripura

10.

Protocol for empowered committee to implement Article 5.3 of WHO Framework Convention on Tobacco Control and to stop Tobacco Industry Interference

There is a fundamental and irreconcilable conflict between the tobacco industry's interests and public health policy interests. In its efforts to undermining strong tobacco control policies, the tobacco industry has historically engaged in various tactics globally.

This protocol is developed due to increasing instances where Tobacco Industry representative have approached and met the public servants. Therefore it is imperative for our state to have explicit guideline in this matter.

**General guideline**

- 1) Public officials and employees shall limit interactions with the tobacco industry and/or its representative.
- 2) Meeting shall be conducted only in the event that it is strictly necessary for the interest of the public.
- 3) The committee in all its meeting shall look out for the welfare of the public by prioritizing the importance of public health.

**Procedure for setting the meeting**

- 1) If representative(s) of tobacco industry desired to meet any public servant, the matter should be brought to the notice of the empower committee in writing before any further communication with them.
- 2) Representative(s) of tobacco industry should clearly identify (in writing) the agenda point for the meeting.
- 3) After reviewing the agenda, the designated officer of the empowered committee shall decide whether to meet the representative(s) or not and if agrees to meet will finalise the agenda.
- 4) Predetermine the meeting participants (from tobacco industry) by asking for their name, and position of those who will attend the meeting.
- 5) Representative from law department must be present and closely advice the committee's members during the meeting.
- 6) Before the meeting, it must be clarify that such interaction does not imply partnership, dialogue and collaboration and indicate it in writing to the tobacco industry that they will not mischaracterise the nature of the meeting
- 7) The meeting should be conducted at any of the premises of government department and ensure that any photograph taken of this meeting is strictly for documentation purposes only and not for the public relations activities of the tobaccoindustry.
- 8) All non-mediated exchanges (in person, phone or email) between officials, employees and representatives of the agency should be avoided.

**Procedure for conducting the meeting**

- 1) Meeting should be brief and only pre-fixed agenda is to be discussed.
- 2) Maintain the right to terminate the meeting at any point.
- 3) A transcript/detailed minute of the meeting's proceeding should be prepared. A voice recording of the meeting may be made to assist in preparing the transcript and further should be filed for record purposes.
- 4) If there are any follow up questions that needs to be answered after the meeting, following further discussion /investigation(s) / study, it may be noted to respond through correspondence.
- 5) Distribute information on the meetings as appropriate. Publicly correct any misinformation regarding the meeting.

**Code of Conduct for public servants including officials and employees**

- 1) All public servants which have a role in setting and implementing public health policies with respect to tobacco control, shall declare to the committee about:
  - i) any current or previous occupational activity, whether gainful or not, with the Tobacco Industry.
  - ii) any intention to engage in an occupational activity within the tobacco industry, whether gainful or not, within a two period of time after leaving service.
- 2) All public servants shall resign from his/her position in the tobacco industry within thirty (30) days from his assumption of office and/or divest his investment or interest within sixty (60) days

from tobacco industry. (For the purpose of this rule, interest in the tobacco industry means personal, financial or other interest, including, **but not limited to:**

- i) having an existing ownership or direct investment in the tobacco industry;
  - ii) being a member of the Board of Directors, an officer of the corporation or a partner in a partnership in the tobacco industry;
  - iii) Receiving any contribution from the tobacco industry.
- 3) No public servant shall not demand or receive any contribution from the tobacco industry for her/himself, their families, relatives, friends, or any other persons or organizations of their close linkage. 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.
  - 4) They shall avoid the creation of any perception of real or potential partnership or cooperation with the tobacco industry and shall publicly correct any such misperception that may have been created.
  - 5) If any public servant experience any kind of tobacco industry interference or have met/approached by the representative of tobacco industry without prior knowledge, he/she shall immediately refer the matter to the empowered committee in writing, seeking necessary instruction.
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