

**Sensitization Meeting on Advancing Tobacco Control with
Special emphasis on Capacity Building and Enforcement of COTPA, 2003
Asansol Municipal Corporation on 19.2.18**

Introduction:

Tobacco is threatening to become an uncontrollable epidemic with 13 lakh deaths every year due to tobacco related diseases. Economic burden (both direct and indirect) of tobacco use in India is estimated to Rs. 104,500 crores per year. In this context tobacco control programs aim to reduce disease, disability and death related to tobacco use. Against this backdrop MANT has been facilitating for establishment of effective and efficient system of tobacco control in the state of West Bengal.

Planning:

Project Coordinator approached the Mayor of Asansol Municipal Corporation for conducting a sensitization programme with all the councillors and officials of the Asansol Municipal Corporation. Programme Coordinator followed up with the Commissioner and Secretary and finalized the date of the programme on 19th February, 2018.



Focus:

The main focus of the program was to orient and sensitize the Elected Councillors and other officials of Asansol Municipal Corporation on the burden of tobacco use and need for a comprehensive enforcement mechanism through which the implementation of Cigarette and other Tobacco Product (Prohibition of Advertisement and Regulation of Trade and Commerce, Production, Supply and Distribution) Act, 2003, could be ensured at the Asansol Municipal Corporation areas.

Venue: Conference Room, Asansol Municipal Corporation office

Programme Date: 19/02/2018

Schedule Time: 11.00 AM

Duration: Two Hour

Target Group: Elected Councillors and other officials of Asansol Municipal Corporation

No of stakeholders: 70

Resource persons:

Mr Amar Chatterjee, Chairman, Asansol Municipal Corporation

Mr Khershed Ali Qudri, Commissioner, Asansol Municipal Corporation

Mr Pralay Kr Sarkar, Secretary, Asansol Municipal Corporation

Mr. Nirmalya Mukherjee, Director–MANT

Ms. Samarpita Sanyal, Project Coordinator– Tobacco Control, MANT

Content of the Programme:

- **Tobacco burden in India and health effects of tobacco use:** Special reference to state of West Bengal & India
- An Overview of COTPA (Section 4, 5, 6, 7).
- Comprehensive enforcement mechanisms of Cigarette and other Tobacco Product (Prohibition of Advertisement and Regulation of Trade and Commerce, Production, Supply and Distribution) Act, 2003 – what works in Bengal.
- Tobacco Vendor Mandatory Licensing.
- Role of Municipal Authorities in Tobacco Control.



Methodology:

- Presentation on Health Burden of Tobacco Use and an overview of COTPA 2003.
- Interactive session.
- Videos on harmfulness of Tobacco and Enforcement of COTPA, 2003.
- Other Laws relating to Tobacco Control.

Decision Taken:

1. Chairman, AMC assured to display the signages at the public places and at the educational institutes that come under their jurisdiction.
2. Commissioner, AMC was agreed to issue a memorandum for Smoke Free declaration of Asansol Municipal Corporation jurisdiction under Sec 4 of COTPA, 2003.
3. Nodal Officer will be selected in next BOC meeting.
4. It was decided that the AMC authority would organise sensitization programmes with multistakeholder like Teenager, Youth Group and Women Group etc and MANT has been requested to be a part of it.
5. MANT was requested to share the soft copy of Signage (Sec 4,) COTPA, 2003 and the draft memorandum for “Smokefree declaration” for Asansol Municipal Corporation.

6. Commissioner, AMC proposed MANT to work in joint collaboration with Asansol Municipal Corporation for Smokefree Asansol and Tobacco Vendor Licensing .

Feedback:

- All the Councillors committed that they would take required initiatives to make their jurisdictions smoke free as soon as possible.