

**Sensitization Meeting on Advancing Tobacco Control with
Special emphasis on Capacity Building and Enforcement of COTPA, 2003
At Hooghly Chinsurah Municipality on 31.03.2018**

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:

Regional Coordinator approached the Chairman of Chinsurah Municipality for conducting a sensitization programme with all the councillors and all Department Heads/In Charges of the Chinsurah Municipality. After several interactions a date was finalized for the sensitization programme on 31st March, 2018.

Focus:

The main focus of the programme was to orient and sensitize the Elected Councillors and other officials of Chinsurah Municipality 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 Chinsurah Municipality areas.

Venue: Meeting Hall, Chinsurah Municipality.

Programme Date: 31.03.2018

Schedule Time: 12.00 PM

Duration: One Hour and Half Hour

Target Group: Elected councillors and all Department Heads/In Charges of Chinsurah Municipality

No of stakeholders: 24

Resource persons:

- Ms Sanhita Datta, Regional Coordinator- Tobacco Control, MANT
- Ms Barsha Nandy, Regional Coordinator- Tobacco Control, MANT
- Mr Soumik Nandy, Project Assistant - 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.

Decisions Taken:

1. Chairman, Chinsurah Municipality assured to display the signages at the public places and at the educational institutes that come under their jurisdiction.
2. The memorandum will be issued in favour of 'Smoke Free Public Place', & 'Tobacco Free Educational Institute' as early as possible.
3. After the meeting it was decided to display the signages (Sec 4) at the Municipality Office.
4. Executive Officer has been appointed as Nodal Officer at Chinsurah Municipality.
5. Chairman assured to issue an order to provide a separate Trade License to all tobacco vendors selling Cigarette and other tobacco products as per the order issued by Urban Development & Municipal Affairs Dept, Govt of west Bengal.



Feedbacks:

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