



Shri Jyotiraditya M. Scindia
Hon'ble Civil Aviation Minister
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Date 16-11-2023

Respected Sir,

SUBJECT: APPEAL TO MAKE WARNING ON ELECTRONIC CIGARETTES AND SIMILAR OTHER PRODUCTS UNAMBIGUOUS AND MORE EXPLICIT TO REMOVE ANY CONFUSION FROM MINDS OF AIR TRAVELERS

We (Shram) are a self-help group with a large number of doctors and professionals, working in the field of health and education since many years tirelessly building awareness campaigns against tobacco and alcohol. Objectives of Shram dictate us that we assist Govt in arriving at judicious decisions on all policy matters relating to the health of citizens. It is under this capacity we are writing you this letter.

As concerned citizens and frequent travelers we have observed a potential issue **regarding the announcements made inside Indian aircraft with regard to electronic cigarettes and other similar products**. While we really appreciate the government's efforts to promote passenger safety and awareness, **we believe that there may be a misunderstanding caused amongst passengers by the announcements made in the aircrafts w.r.t usage of Electronic Cigarettes in the country. Current announcements inside the aircrafts give the impressions that E-Cigarettes and other similar products are banned only inside the aircrafts which is contrary to the Indian laws which prohibits Sale, possession and consumption of these products all across the country.**

Sir, Govt of India vide its order dated 18th Sept. 2019 (attached) *prohibited the production, manufacture, import, export, transport, Sale, distribution, storage, and advertisement of electronic cigarettes in the interest of public health. As per media reports (attached), The Union Health Ministry has also sent a clarification to the Ministry of Civil Aviation that possession of e-cigarettes and similar devices in any form, quantity or manner is in violation of the Prohibition of Electronic Cigarettes Act (PECA). However, the warning announcements made inside Indian aircraft currently state, "Electronic cigarettes use in aircraft is prohibited".*



Sir, our concern is that these announcements made inside the aircrafts are misleading as inadvertently it gives passengers the impression that E cigarettes use is only banned in aircraft and can be used outside the aircraft. The reality, as mentioned above, is that electronic cigarettes and similar devices are banned across the country by the Government of India and cannot be used anywhere within the country.

It is crucial to ensure that passengers are well-informed about this ban to prevent any potential violations of the law and to promote public health.

I kindly request that the warning Announcements in Indian aircraft be modified to explicit statements that **ELECTRONIC CIGARETTES ARE BANNED BY THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA AND THEIR USE AND POSSESSION IS PROHIBITED ACROSS THE COUNTRY.** This change in wording will help eliminate any ambiguity and ensure that passengers understand the severity of the ban.

Furthermore, it may be beneficial to provide brief educational materials or pamphlets on electronic cigarette regulations in India within the aircraft or at airport terminals to further raise awareness among travelers as they are the most important target group of E-cigarettes making multinational companies. We believe that taking these steps will help in better informing passengers about the ban on electronic cigarettes and similar other devices and contribute to the overall safety and well-being of all travelers within our country.

Your attention to this matter is greatly appreciated, and we are confident that changing signage and announcements in aircrafts, will result in a safer and more informed traveling experience for all. Thank you for your time and consideration sir and we really look forward to a positive response from your esteemed office in this important issue.

Yours Sincerely



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*Note - This letter has been drafted and edited by our editorial team and has approval of members of
Shram*