

## Tobacco Products

The Cigarettes and Other Tobacco Products (Prohibition of Advertisement and Regulation of Trade and Commerce, Production, Supply and Distribution) Bill, 2001, has received the assent of the Rajya Sabha. The approval of the Lok Sabha is now required before the bill can become law. There has already been a delay of two years since the bill was first introduced.

Along with regulation of trade and promotion, the Bill seeks to prohibit both direct and indirect advertising of cigarettes and other tobacco products. It makes smoking in public places and selling tobacco products to minors, an offence, leading to a fine. When this bill is passed, it is expected to adversely impact the growth in new smokers as advertising plays a significant role in capturing new victims. However, existing smokers, being addicts, remain a captive market. It is unlikely that the state would impose a complete ban on cigarette sales as it is a major source of revenue for the government.

Monthly cigarettes production recovered to 4.8 billion sticks in February from a 13-year low of 4.2 billion sticks in January 2003. It was also 6.6 per cent higher than production in February 2002. However, the overall trend remains depressed. Cigarettes production declined by 6.5 per cent during April–February 2002–03 as compared to a decline of 19.1 per cent in the corresponding period of 2001–02.

Cigarettes Production  
Apr–Feb

	Mln.nos	% chg.
<b>Production</b>		
2001–02	55875.4	-19.10
2002–03	52233.2	-6.52

Cigarettes: Apr–Nov

	Rs.crore	% chg.
<b>Imports</b>		
2001–02	3.48	75.44
2002–03	10.78	209.98
<b>Exports</b>		
2001–02	24.02	4.47
2002–03	53.49	122.65

Cigarettes Production

	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar
<b>Production</b>												
2000–01	7680.3	7769.4	5636.6	5432.6	6230.3	5858.1	5554.4	5594.3	6594.9	6441.7	6275.0	6017.2
2001–02	5563.8	4949.7	4906.4	4959.4	4985.3	5334.2	5012.8	5073.2	5085.9	5476.6	4528.1	4702.0
2002–03	5586.2	5407.9	4214.5	4772.0	5079.5	4740.9	4240.1	4331.3	4874.3	4161.8	4824.7	