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## **Tobacco retailers oppose suggestion to restrict sale of other items**

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**New Delhi:** Federation of Retailers Association of India (FRAI), a body representing around four crore micro, small and medium retailers in the country, is protesting a suggestion made by the government that may stop tobacco retailers, including panwallas, from selling non-tobacco items, including toffee, chips, biscuits and soft drinks.

FRAI president Ram Asre Mishra on Tuesday said that authorities have started cracking down on retailers in several states based on the suggestion.

While government officials have assured the organisation that the matter will be looked into, Mishra said if the provision comes into effect, micro retailers will witness over 40% decline in their earnings.

“On one hand you have not deemed tobacco illegal but on the other, you plan to restrict its sale and thereby affect the earnings of around 75 lakh micro retailers who depend on selling multiple products,” said Mishra.