

Alert! You are buying illegal, fake cigarette every one out of three times

By: Samrat Sharma | Updated: February 10, 2020

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Ever wondered why sometimes your cigarette tastes different or gets available at comparatively cheaper prices? It may be fake. One out of every three cigarettes available in the market is illegal, making it vulnerable to health hazards. One of the few ways by which illegal products are pushed into the market is by overproduction by tobacco companies, saving tax on the surplus. Since the surplus quantity is not monitored, its composition also goes unchecked. Illicit tobacco harms individual and population health in additional ways. It has been



estimated that the illegal cigarette market reduces average cigarette prices by about 4% and is accountable for about 2% higher cigarette consumption.

In the last three decades, the legal cigarettes' share amongst total tobacco consumption in India has declined from 21% in FY82 to 10% in FY17. On the other hand, during the exact period, the overall tobacco consumption within the country has increased by 33%. "This drop-in legal cigarette revealed in the shift to the illegal cigarette and the 3 unorganized sectors of the Industry," revealed the Authentication Solutions Providers' Association' (ASPA) advisory report urging the government to eliminate illicit tobacco trade in India according to WHO FCTC requirements.

Source: <https://www.financialexpress.com/industry/alert-you-are-buying-illegal-fake-cigarette-every-one-out-of-three-times/1862444/>