

TOBACCO POLLUTION

No butts on butts: NGT

The National Green Tribunal has asked the Central Pollution Control Board to lay down guidelines for disposal of cigarette and bidi butts within three months. Noting tobacco is harmful for health, the NGT passed the direction taking cognisance of an expert study conducted by the Indian Institute of Toxicology Research on whether cigarette and bidi butts fall within the category of toxic waste or not. According to the study, the analysis of the cigarette/bidi butts reflect that concentration of various chemicals based on the parameters analysed is lower than the prescribed limits and will not be toxic to human and environment. The NGT earlier slammed the environment ministry for terming cigarette butts 'biodegradable' and directed it to clarify its stand on the issue.