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Your Right to Know

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## Hotel owners directed to implement anti-tobacco laws

■ Federal Enforcement Committee to conduct surprise visits to check violation of ordinance in the capital

**ISLAMABAD:** The ministry of Health has directed the managements of hotels, restaurants and international food chains to properly implement anti-tobacco laws to protect the health of non-smokers.

According to official sources, the ministry's tobacco control cell has written a letter to the Pakistan Hotels Association Chairman and Pakistan Food Association President and asked them to impose complete ban on any form of smoking on the premises of hotels, restaurants and international food chains.

The sources said they had also been asked to stop allocating designated areas for smok-

ers within premises of hotels and restaurants to stop allowing them using cigarettes, pipes, cigars and sheeshas.

They said smoking in any form was totally banned in all places of public work or use including hotels and restaurants under section 2 of Prohibition of smoking and protection of non-smokers health ordinance 2002.

The ministry has asked their managements to implement anti-tobacco laws to protect the health of non-smokers and there is no permission of allocating designated areas for smokers, they added.

They said it has been decided that Federal Enforcement

Committee with the representation of Ministry of Health, Ministry of Information and Broadcasting and Ministry of Interior will conduct surprise visits to check violation of ordinance in the federal capital.

Sources said the committee would also make plans to create awareness in citizens regarding negative effects of smoking and educate them about the tobacco control laws for proper implementation.

They said the inter-ministerial steering committee on Tobacco Control comprising members from all ministries would take all stakeholders on board for proper implementation of the ordinance.

They said officials of all concerned ministries who were members of such committee would make strategies to implement the tobacco control laws in their respective departments including educational institutions and offices.

They said District Implementation Committees had also been given task to educate the citizens about such laws and stop open use of tobacco in public places and offices.

They said all country's airports have removed designated areas for smokers and now no one is allowed to smoke there while such steps have also been taken by Pakistan Railways. APP