

DR.RAMADOSS SEEKS SHAHRUKH KHAN'S HELP TO CHECK TOBACCO SMOKING

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The Minister for Health and Family Welfare, Dr.Anbumani Ramadoss has sought the cooperation of the popular actor Shahrukh Khan to check tobacco smoking. In a letter just written to Shahrukh Khan, the Minister welcomed his pledge to give up smoking on the eve of his 40th birthday. It is needless to say that such a public health pronouncement by a charismatic personality like Shahrukh Khan, will go a long way in inspiring and protecting the youth of our country from getting addicted to the use of tobacco. Moreover, the non-smokers will also be spared from involuntary exposure to tobacco smoke if it is minimized, the Minister said.

Dr.Ramadoss also said that Shahrukh Khan's decision comes at a time when the Government is taking a series of measures to prevent the use of tobacco in general and the dangers of smoking in particular. He pointed out that the actor must be aware that tobacco consumption continues to be a major preventable cause of death worldwide. Every year, four million people die of tobacco related causes worldwide and in South-East Asia alone, the number of such deaths exceed five lakhs i.e. one person dying every eight second.

He expressed the confidence that Shahrukh Khan's gesture will enlighten the youth about the ill effects of cigarette smoking and help in improving public health.

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