

exist under the Indian Penal Code to deal with persons committing such illegal acts.

Impact of Statutory Warning on Cigarette Packs

4552. PROF. RUP CHAND PAL : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the profit percentage of cigarette manufacturing companies increased after insertion of statutory warning on the cigarette packs ;

(b) whether one of the reasons for the increase in high peak advertisements of cigarette as the symbol of freedom, independence, athleticism, youth and economic and social success ; and

(c) if so, the steps proposed to check increase in smoking ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (KUMARI KUMUDBEN M. JOSHI) : (a) and (b). There are no surveys or available data to support these contentions.

(c) A series of steps have already been taken by the Government to bring out the health hazards associated with smoking as well as to control smoking. Government propose to consider in detail the measures that are required to be taken to control the use of tobacco, including smoking, in general after taking all relevant factors into consideration.

Burden of fiscal levies on Road Transport Industry

4553. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR GOYAL : Will the Minister of SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that excessive burden of fiscal levies on the road transport industry have led the road transport to an uneconomic proposition ; and

(b) if so, what steps are proposed for adequate development of transport services

for products and passengers and specially in rural areas ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT (SHRI Z.R. ANSARI) : (a) and (b). The National Transport Policy Committee, (May 1980) which had recently examined the matter observed that they had not been able to find any evidence to show that the tax burden on road transport industry had inhibited its growth or was causing loss to the operators.

However, recognising that there existed a wide disparity of Motor Vehicle tax-rates levied by the States, the Central Government has set up a high level committee to go into the question of rationalisation of Motor Vehicular taxes and to lay down guidelines for adoption by States while levying taxes.

Gandhiji University, Kerala

4554. PROF. P.J. KURIEN : Will the Minister of EDUCATION AND CULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Gandhiji University, Kottayam Kerala, has applied for recognition and financial assistance from U.G.C. ;

(b) if so, Government's reaction thereto ;

(c) whether U.G.C. had given fixed norms regarding the formation of Senate and Syndicate ; and

(d) if so, details thereof and if not reasons thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRIES OF EDUCATION AND CULTURE AND SOCIAL WELFARE (SHRIMATI SHEILA KAUL) : (a) and (b). The Gandhiji University, Kottayam does not require any recognition from the UGC. However the University has to be declared fit by the UGC to receive assistance from the Commission or other Central sources. The Government of Kerala has sent a proposal to the Commission for considering declaration of the University fit to receive such assistance. After examining the