

with me. Sir, you will be surprised to know that not only the passengers but also the press people who were accompanying me were prepared to pay - at present the charge is only one rupee - even five rupees...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Who are they?...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI C. K. JAFFER SHARIEF: Passengers including the press correspondents have told me. The passengers were prepared to pay Rs. 5, Rs. 4 or Rs. 3. Now what are charging is one rupee. And we increased it by another rupee...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: It is one hundred per cent increase...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: Next Question No. 474 - Shrimati Sumitra Mahajan - Absent.

(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Minister, I have gone to the next question. Question No. 475. Shrimati Saroj Dubey.

(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: Achariaji, this is not correct. Please take your seat.

(*Interruptions*)

SHRI AMAL DATTA: Please allow a discussion on this...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: Do you not know that we have a discussion on Railways?

(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: Now you are doing injustice to the other Member, who is asking the question. You are imposing yourself on the House. This is not good. Let the lady Member ask a question. Please take your seat. Shrimati Saroj Dubey.

Quality Control of Cosmetics

*475 SHRIMATI SAROJ DUBEY: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the use of cosmetics after the date of their expiry is detrimental to the skin and body;

(b) whether the chemical, ingredients and the date of expiry are printed on the packing labels of cosmetics;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor;

(d) the number of cosmetic manufacturers against whom action has been taken under the Drugs and Cosmetics Act, 1940 during the last three years; and

(e) whether the Government propose to award BIS mark to cosmetics for quality control?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI D. K. THARADEVI SIDDHARTHA): (a) to (e). A statement is laid on the table of the House.

STATEMENT

(a) No, Sir.

(b) No, excepting in the case of fluoride toothpaste and hair oils.

(c) and (d). The ingredients used in the formulation of cosmetics are generally stable and do not normally deteriorate on storage. However, wherever such ingredients are used as may cause allergy etc, the cosmetics manufacturers are required to give adequate directions for their safe use. Therefore, there has been no cause for taking action against cosmetic manufacturers on this score.

(e) The quality of cosmetics is con-

trolled under Schedule 'S' of the Drugs and Cosmetics Rules, 1945, under which BIS standard have been adopted for 18 cosmetics. BIS mark for cosmetics is not mandatory.

[*Translation*]

SHRIMATI SAROJ DUBEY: Mr. Speaker, Sir, through you, I would like to say that the answers given to my questions are very confusing. For example, in response to the (C) and (d) part of my question, it has been stated that the ingredients used in the formulation of cosmetics are generally stable and do not normally deteriorate on storage. It has also been stated that wherever such ingredients are used as may cause allergy etc., the cosmetics manufacturers are required to give adequate directions for their safe use. I would like to mention here that the Drugs and Cosmetics Control Act, 1940 was enacted much before independence. Very little has been mentioned about cosmetics in that Act. However, this Act was amended time and again in 1960, 62, 64, 82 and 86 with a view to maintain quality control. However, despite all these amendments, Cosmetic manufacturers continue to use substandard raw material and what's more there is virtually no check over the colours used in these cosmetics. This matter is of utmost importance, as today cosmetics have become an important necessity in the lives of our women folk and in almost every household with women members, cosmetics in one or the other form is certainly purchased. Cosmetics are in fact considered very much essential for a married woman. Among these, four items are most important.

MR. SPEAKER: This won't do. Please come to the question.

SHRIMATI SAROJ DUBEY: The most important the 'Bindi'. There are three kinds of Bindi. One is the sticker Bindi, which is put on the forehead. No wrapper mentions the name of the chemicals used in the production of these sticker Bindi. These bindis are

causing diseases like Leucoderma. (*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: Please don't tell me all these things. You put the question to the hon. Minister.

SHRIMATI SAROJ DUBEY: It is a very serious matter and that is why I am raising it here. Cosmetics have become an integral part of the basic necessities of our women-folk. The Government should pay serious attention towards this matter, as some of these cosmetics cause various skin diseases and batal diseases. It causes white patches and the use of liquid Bindi and Kumkumas cause rashes on the forehead. Has the Government got any survey conducted in this regard? Has it come out with any report and has the Government taken any action against the guilty? My second question is... (*Interruptions*) If you don't give me a patient hearing, it would tantamount to grave injustice.

MR. SPEAKER: You please address the Minister, not me.

SHRIMATI SAROJ DUBEY: Eyes constitute the most delicate part of our body. The doctors have warned against the use of 'Kajal'. In recent times, a range of cosmetics including eyeliners and eye shadows have invaded the Indian market. On the labels, only the names of the companies manufacturing these products are printed. For instance, they write "Blue Heaven" or "Lakme". Moreover they never mention the names of the chemicals used in the preparation of a particular product. They do not write any instructions on their product. The use of these products leads to trachoma, blindness and even cataract. Apart from that, the use of lipsticks can lead to cancer.

(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: You should ask your question.

SHRIMATI SAROJ DUBEY: A misleading advertisement is being given by the Hindustan Lever Ltd., the manufacturers of a cream known as fair and lovely that their product can make a person fairer. In fact, excessive use of this cream can cause skin diseases. So the use of such products is not enhancing the beauty of people. You have said that all these details are printed on the label of every product but you may find altogether a different thing in this regard.

MR. SPEAKER: I will disallow your question.

SHRIMATI SAROJ DUBEY: The hon. Minister may please reply to this.

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIM. L. FOTEDAR): Mr. Speaker, Sir, Sarojji has just now said that the problems relating to women may be viewed seriously. I want to assure her that the problems pertaining to women will always be taken seriously. I want this thing should be given utmost importance. My esteemed colleague the Minister of State in this Ministry will reply to the points raised by Smt. Sarojji because it concerns two ladies and I thought they might counter each other.

As far as cosmetics is concerned, I want to give you a categorical assurance that there is no prescribed standard and requirement of licence in respect of bindis. These are manufactured in small scale sector all over the country, and according to doctors, these are harmless. As such I understand the use of bindi by an individual will not affect her secular character. On one hand, it caters to a religious requirement while on the other, one may be benefitted by it. Using a bindi cannot be harmful...

SHRIMATI SAROJ DUBEY: But please enlighten us on the point that application of bindi on the forehead is causing leucoderma on that part of the body. Please get a survey conducted in this regard...

SHRI M. L. FOTEDAR: The second thing that you have said is about the eye disease...

SHRIMATI SAROJ DUBEY: But please tell us only about the disease called leucoderma to which thousands of women have fallen victim...

SHRI M. L. FOTEDAR: Such a thing has never been brought to my notice.

MR. SPEAKER: Shrimati Bhavna...

SHRIMATI SAROJ DUBEY: My second supplementary...

MR. SPEAKER: You have asked...

SHRIMATI SAROJ DUBEY: No, Sir, Unless you tell them the background, they will not understand it.

MR. SPEAKER: The second supplementary should be precise.

SHRIMATI SAROJ DUBEY: The trend of beauty parlours is increasing rapidly and the people were somewhat afraid of the old type of cosmetics. As such, now under the Ayurvedic System new cosmetic material is being prepared from herbs and they have been received a world wide recognition because people in and outside the country are sure that these cosmetics being herbal preparations are not going to cause any harm. However we would like to know from the hon. Minister whether the herbs being used in the cosmetics are examined or you have been informed that they use the same quality of material they have written about on the packing. In fact these beauty parlours are preparing these cosmetics on their own at their respective homes and working against the consumers' interests as they are using wrong material to prepare their cosmetics. As such, do you propose to take steps to ban the use of these things? Apart from this, this is it not essential to mention the date of expiry on the products to prevent fatal skin ailments being caused by the use of these

local herbal cosmetics. After the expiry of the date, such products should be compulsorily destroyed because a new label might be fixed on the packing after the expiry of date...

MR. SPEAKER: Instead of asking questions, she is giving a lecture...

SHRIMATI SAROJ DUBEY: One thing more As per the requirement of Section 26 of 1986 Act, earlier the inspectors used to examine it but after the new Amendment came into force, all the recognised consumer associations have been given the powers on initiating investigation and prosecution for a prescribed fee. As such I want to know from the hon. Minister whether any action has been taken in the cases which have come to their notice and what steps are proposed to be taken by the Government against those who are using spurious chemicals? Do the Government propose to make the mention of expiry date mandatory?

SHRI M. L. FOTEDAR: I would like to tell hon. Dubeyji that mention of expiry date in this regard is not at all required and the ingredients used in this are not harmful for health or from any other angle because....

AN HON. MEMBER: How do you know that?

SHRI M. L. FOTEDAR: This is what I have been told. I am also getting the suggestions given by you in this regard examined

SHRIMATI BHAVNA CHIKHLIA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to point out to the hon. Minister that in his reply to part (A) of the question as to whether the use of cosmetics after their date of expiry is harmful for skin and body, the Minister has replied in negative. But opinion of skin specialists in this regard is a bit different as it says that such cosmetics are highly injurious to skin and body. Does the Government propose to undertake further investigation in this regard?

SHRI M. L. FOTEDAR: For what?

SHRIMATI BHAVNA CHIKHLIA: Does the Government propose to get it examined whether such items are injurious to skin and body?

SHRI M. L. FOTEDAR: As regards eye make up, we have clearly mentioned as to what ingredients can be used to prepare such cosmetic items and what percentage of fluoride should contain a toothpaste. For the rest of the things, there is no such requirement.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: At least on gentlemen should ask the question. Shri Vijay Naval Patil.

SHRI VIJAY NAVAL PATIL: Sir, now-a-days gents are also using cosmetics. As the nature has it, ladies have more resistance to diseases upto a certain age when they use these cosmetics. The cosmetics which are not harmful to the ladies because of their resistance capacity may be harmful to gents. Will the hon. Minister make it a point to ask the manufacturers to write 'Only for ladies' on the products?

SHRI M. L. FOTEDAR: We have asked the manufacturers on a particular type of soap that this will not be used for the babies. I do not think it is necessary for other things I do not think that a person like you or me will use the cosmetics

"Seminar on Environment"

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*476. SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL:
SHRI RABI RAY:

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a seminar was organised by