

Fourteenth Loksabha

Session : 6

Date : 20-12-2005

Participants : Nambadan Shri Lonappan

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Title : Need to ban the manufacture and sale of Pan masalas in the Country.

MR. CHAIRMAN: If the House agrees, we will take up 'Zero Hour' matters, that is, matters of urgent public importance.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI BIJOY HANDIQUE): Sir, after the Minister's nice reply, let us go home happily.

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI): It was an important issue and every question has been answered by the hon. Minister. I feel that if the Members agree, we need not take up 'Zero Hour' today.

SHRI BIJOY HANDIQUE: Let there be no 'Zero Hour' today.

MR. CHAIRMAN: I shall mention one thing. If the House agrees, we will take it up now, otherwise we will take it up tomorrow.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Sir, let us take it up tomorrow [\[R75\]](#).

SHRI KINJARAPU YERRANNAIDU (SRIKAKULAM): Mr. Chairman, Sir, we will agree to the Special Mentions being taken up tomorrow provided today's notices are treated as postponed to tomorrow. ... (*Interruptions*)

MR. CHAIRMAN : I will tell you one thing. These notices cannot be carried forward tomorrow. Fresh notices will be necessary. You will have to give notices tomorrow once again.

... (*Interruptions*)

श्री गिरधारी लाल भार्गव (जयपुर) : सभापति महोदय, आप आज जीरो ऑवर कराइए, हम दो-दो मिनट बोलेंगे।

MR. CHAIRMAN: I will take it up. I shall remain there. But the question is that you should be brief.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: We will be brief, Sir.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Chandra Shekhar Dubey - Not present.

SHRI LONAPPAN NAMBADAN Mr. Chairman, Sir, I rise to bring to the notice of the House the sufferings, agony and misery of the people in general and youngsters including students in particular due to the liberal and uncontrolled manufacture and sale of harmful *panmasalas* in the country.

As per the World Health Organisation report, about 10 lakh people die in a year in India alone due to diseases related to smoking. While our Government gets an amount Rs.2000 crore as tax from the sale of tobacco and tobacco-based products, we also spend Rs.2500 crore to treat many dreadful diseases like cancer borne out of use of tobacco and different brands of *panmasala*. Young and innocent school children are the easy prey to the vicious influence of such *panmasala*, which has the potential to develop oral cancer in them in their early childhood. Young college students and construction workers are two groups who have been trapped in this vicious habit.

The ingredients of the *panmasala* include powdered glass, sleeping pills, tar and other poisonous and harmful materials. Certain symptoms of the disease are: headache, vomiting, lack of sleep, etc. The WHO's assessment is that in the next ten-fifteen years cancer is likely to spread like wildfire among the youngsters of developing countries including India. A State like Kerala, where about 370 quintals of *panmasala* is sold every month is perhaps most vulnerable to this disease. The financial burden to the families and the nation to treat these victims is quite huge.

The *panmasala* is treated as a food item. The emblem of the 'Green Dot' is also allowed to be used on biscuit packets as well as *panmasala* packets. In a case relating to request for banning the *panmasalas*, the Supreme Court has observed that since the

panmasalas have been included in the list of agricultural products and edible items only Parliament can impose such a ban.

I, therefore, request the Government to take immediate steps to ban the manufacture and sale of all kinds of *panmasalas* in the country [\[KMR76\]](#).

MR. CHAIRMAN : If any hon. Member is reading a Statement, the same can be handed over.