

>

Title: Regarding printing of statutory warnings on cigarette packet.

SHRI M. SHIVANNA (CHAMRAJANAGAR) : I would like to speak on a very important issue relating to the printing of the statutory warning on cigarette packets in the regional languages. Sir, the Government has made a law regarding statutory warning on cigarette packets and advertisements. That is what Cigarettes Act 1975, prescribes making it mandatory that the statutory warning should be printed in every cigarette packet in the respective regional languages in different states. Kannada in Karnataka and Tamil in Tamil Nadu and so on along with the warning in English. According to that law it is a must to print that the cigarette smoking is injurious to health. But the Indian Tabaco Company has not been following the rule. Still the statutory warning is printed only in English language. In the year 2002, we made a request to Indian Tabaco Company on behalf of Janata Dal Party in this regard. The Indian Tabaco Company has also assured us in writing to print the statutory warning in regional languages. But still it is printing only in English. Ours is a developing country. Large number of people do not know read to and write even their mother tongue. So how can we expect the common people understand statutory warning in english. Necessary advertisements should be printed in pictures also.

Therefore it is my earnest request to the Government through you to take necessary steps and make stringent law in this regard. Government should ensure that the statutory warning are printed in respective regional languages and also in English language. It will create awareness among the crores of innocent people of the country, with this I conclude my speech.

---

\* English Translation of the speech originally delivered in Kannada