

[Translation]

SHRI G.S. MISHRA : I want to know from the hon. Minister that in view of the fact that the Indian Shipping Company is in such a straitened condition, the number and type of ships which have been chartered by the Government of India and its Undertakings, for what purpose they have been hired and how much commission is paid to them therefor ?

[English]

SHRI RAJESH PILOT : This question does not arise out of this question. If the hon member can put a separate question on the subject, on the complete charter, I would be able to give the answer.

SHRI G. S. MISHRA : It concerns about sickness of the companies.

SHRI D. P. JADEJA : It is a known fact that there is a recession in the shipping industry throughout the world. That affects smaller companies as well as bigger companies. The companies which are given finance by the SDFC are given finance to the tune of 95 per cent of the amount that they want. Your Ministry is also giving finance to the sailing vessels industry and you give only to the tune of 75 per cent of the total cost of the vessel. Is the government considering what facilities you are thinking of giving to these shipping companies and the bigger companies ?

Is the Government considering the question of giving facilities to the sailing vessels industry to survive these difficult days?

SHRI RAJESH PILOT : Mr. Speaker, when, the SDFC was formed there were few considerations before the Government and the SDFC was formed on that basis. The hon. Member's suggestion is welcome ; I will have it examined and come to the House again.

#### Lung Cancer due to Increasing Cigarette Consumption

\*63. SHRI K. RAMAMURTHY : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the World Health Organisation in a series of reports has warned that an epidemic of lung cancer is likely to come within a decade to the third world countries because of rapidly increasing cigarette consumption ;

(b) if so, the steps being taken by Government to contain the consumption of cigarettes by the people in India, apart from the statutory warning displayed by the manufacturers in the huge hoardings and full-page advertisements in the Press that 'cigarette smoking is injurious to health' ;

(c) whether the reports and the efforts being made by the United States Health Department to limit smoking have come to the notice of Government and if so, what are those steps ; and

(d) the obstacles which stand in the way of the Government in taking similar steps in India ?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI MOHSINA KIDWAI) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) Apart from the statutory warnings on Cigarette packets and advertisements, most of the state Governments have promulgated laws prohibiting smoking in closed areas like cinemas, buses, educational institutions, hospitals etc. The authorities of Indian Airlines Corporation have decided to extend "No Smoking" areas in the various aircrafts. The Ministry of Sports have also decided that no advertisement for cigarettes would be permitted in the Asiad stadia. An action plan to intensify the health education in this area and to bring about a fall in the consumption pattern of tobacco products is under consideration in consultation with other associated Ministries. In chalking up the action plan the strategies adopted in other countries would also be kept in view.

SHRI K. RAMAMURTHY : Mr. Speaker, Sir, with due apologies to the hon. Members of this House who are smokers, may I ask this question through you ? The statutory warning "CIGARETTE SMOKING IS INJURIOUS TO HEALTH" which we are now at present getting printed

on the cigarette packets is, instead of curtailing smoking, leading to a tendency to increase smoking.

When I was in London in 1974 the Government of the United Kingdom introduced this system of having the statutory warning on the packets. And I understand that after this statutory warning was incorporated, the cigarette companies reported that their sales had gone up by 10 per cent. So, this is a very dangerous thing.

MR. SPEAKER : please come to the question.

SHRI K. RAMAMURTHY : I am coming.

AN HON. MEMBER : Do not smoke.

SHRI K. RAMAMURTHY : The measures taken against cigarette smoking are very meagre. The hon. Minister has said that the Indian Airlines and some of the Asiad stadia authorities have agreed to extend the 'No smoking' areas. etc. and that advertisements for cigarettes would not be accepted. That is not enough. It is a fact, known all over the world, that this is going to lead to lung cancer and other connected diseases. May I know from the hon. Minister whether the Government will come forward and by using all the media including cinema and others publicise that cigarette smoking is injurious to health and also, will the Government come forward to advertisements for cigarettes by the companies are curtailed to the extent. that no advertisement is given to the cigarette manufacturing companies by the Government ?

MR. SPEAKER : In spite of all that what is the result ?

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE : You cannot introduce another prohibition.

SHRIMATI MOHSINA KIDWAI : It is not a question of cigarette smoking only. As you know, India is the third largest country producing tobacco in the world. So it is not only the Health Ministry that is concerned, but it is the concern of the other Ministries also. And, I will also make a request to the hon. Speaker.

[Translation]

The ash-trays kept in the lobbies are always full of cigarette butts. Therefore, I shall request you all that there should be no smoking there. I do not know whether Shri Dandavate will agree with me or not ?

MR. SPEAKER : I do not allow anybody to smoke in my chamber.

SHRIMATI MOHSINA KIDWAI : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am talking of the lobbies.

MR. SPEAKER : I have put the lobbies under your charge.

SHRIMATI MOHSINA KIDWAI : I agree that whatever steps we take regarding smoking will be in consultation with the other Ministries.

.. (Interruptions)

[English]

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE : The Minister has no experience in this. Her experience is only academic.

MR. SPEAKER : You mean that she must do something about it.

[Translation]

SHRIMATI MOHSINA KIDWAI : The companies formulate their policies with an eye on the sale of their product. In our country, not only cigarette is used for smoking, but *beedi* and *hookah* are also used ; people make use of tobacco in other ways also ; they chew it. We should educate the people in the country about all these things. Cigarette is certainly injurious to the lungs and it is our earnest endeavour to educate the people through the media and through other things, as we have done in the case of cigarette packets. We are also considering what other steps can be taken in this direction.

[English]

SHRI K. RAMAMURTHY : The hon. Minister has not given me a satisfactory answer. She is only passing on the baby to different Ministries.

Apart from cigarette smoking, there is a worldwide ban on producing the asphalt sheets...

MR. SPEAKER : Has it some connection with the question ?

SHRI K. RAMAMURTHY : Yes, Sir. There is a ban on production as well as usage of asbestos sheets in other countries because it is generating cancerous cells in human beings. As a developing country since we are having cheap labour, we are producing asbestos sheets on a large scale. Is the Health Minister aware of its ill affects ? If so, what steps she is taking to ban the production of asbestos sheets in the country ?

[Translation]

SHRIMATI MOHSINA KIDWAI : Mr. Speaker, Sir, banning a thing is not the only solution to a problem. It is not only the question of tobacco growers in the country but it is also the question of all those who are associated or engaged in this industry.

So far as the question of cancer is concerned, it is caused by smoking and by chewing tobacco also. There are many other causes also.....(Interruptions)

As regards asbestos sheets, I am not aware if they also cause cancer... (Interruptions)

A study and research is being conducted by the ICMR in this regard. A research is being carried out on cancer caused by tobacco chewing in Agra region.

The question asked by the hon. Member was on smoking. Smoking causes lung cancer ; other things related with tobacco also carry the possibilities of cancer and it is because of this that it is said that smoking should be avoided.

[English]

DR. DATTA SAMANT : The World Health Organisation and the United States Health Department have been repeatedly publicising for the last ten years that cigarette smoking not only causes cancer but high smoking of cigarettes damages the heart arteries and lungs. It is one of the major reasons of heart attacks in young age. Considering all these things, will the

government consider giving wider publicity through cinema and other media that these are the damages done to the human beings by smoking cigarettes, so that the average people will come to know about the damages done ? Chewing of tobacco is less harmful.

MR. SPEAKER : Put the question.

DR. DATTA SAMANT : My specific question is : Will the Government go in for advertisements on a mass scale that these are the damages done to the human beings by smoking of cigarettes so that this may enlighten the public about its ill affects ?

SHRIMATI MOHSINA KIDWAI : That we are doing through our health education system saying that it is dangerous for heart. Publicity is being given through our literature and also through hoardings at public places.

SHRI LALITESHWAR SHAHI : Sir, I want to know whether the Government is considering a proposal that when the hoardings are put up for advertising cigarettes, at least 15 per cent space of that hoarding should be used for saying that cigarette smoking is injurious to health.....(Interruptions).

MR. SPEAKER : It is all right. No more questions. That is all.

#### Handicapped Employees at Kharagpur Railway Workshop

\*65. SHRI K. RAMACHANDRA REDDY : Will the Minister of TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Railway workshop at Kharagpur, which happens to be the biggest and oldest Railway workshop in the country has in its employ handicapped persons also ;

(b) if so, the total number of employees in this workshop and the total number of handicapped workers ; and

(c) whether their wages are the same as given to other workers, and, if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER FOR TRANSPORT (SHRI BANSI LAL) : (a) Yes, Sir.