

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 Kharagur, 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.

(b) Total number of employees 14596  
Number of handicapped employees 130

(c) Yes, Sir.

**SHRI K. RAMACHANDRA REDDY :** Sir, as far as the handicapped persons are concerned, is there any reservation for them, and if so, what is the percentage ?

**SHRI BANSI LAL :** Fifteen per cent.

**SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY :** I think the Minister is wrong, Sir.

**SHRI K. RAMACHANDRA REDDY :** Sir, in the Kharagpur workshop, out of a total of 14,596 employees, only 130 are handicapped employees. This works out to be less than one per cent, that is, far less than 15 per cent reserved for them. I would like to know what are the efforts made by the Government to increase the percentage of handicapped employees in this factory.

**SHRI BANSI LAL :** We are not trying to increase the quota but we are trying to increase the number of handicapped persons within the quota.

**SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA :** Sir, the Minister has just now said that the reservation for handicapped persons is fifteen per cent. I would like to know whether this percentage is only in respect of that particular workshop or throughout the Railways it is fifteen per cent.

**SHRI BANSI LAL :** In all the Railways it is 15 per cent, but, Sir, in the open line working we cannot employ many of them.

**SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA :** Then what is the percentage of reservation in the Indian Railways ?

**SHRI BANSI LAL :** The overall percentage is fifteen but practically we cannot deploy fifteen per cent in operational works because of the hazards involved. In the workshops and other places we are trying to do it.

**SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY :** Sir, the Minister is widely off the mark on this count. It is not fifteen per cent, it is three per cent. In the instant case, the employment provided is coming to less than one per cent. Will he make efforts to improve it to three per cent and will he correct himself in regard to his answer or will he, in the alternative, face a privilege motion ?

**SHRI BANSI LAL :** Sir, according to a circular issued in 1977, it was three per cent but after 1980 there was another circular raising it to fifteen per cent of vacancies in specified categories.

#### Supply of spurious and sub-standard good to Delhi Transport Corporation

\*67. **DR. G.S. RAJHANS :** Will the Minister of TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Minister of State in the Department of Surface Transport recently paid surprise visits to the different Delhi Transport Corporation depots in Delhi and found spurious and sub-standard goods ;

(b) if so, what are the spurious and sub-standard goods recovered ;

(c) the names of the companies which supplied these inferior goods to the Delhi Transport Corporation ; and

(d) whether any responsibility has been fixed and the action contemplated by Government against the involved Delhi Transport Corporation officials and companies for such deals ?

#### THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI RAJESH PILOT) :

(a) and (b) Yes Sir. The surprise visit was made to the DTC's Patpar Ganj Depot on 28.10.1985. During the course of inspection, cartons containing the soap were opened in the Stores Department and random samples were seen which appeared to be spurious. Some spare parts were also seized which were suspected to be sub-standard or spurious.

(c) and (d) 11 officials of DTC have been suspended. The investigation has been entrusted to CBI and CVO of the