

14-years' boy when he left Kashmir. He studied in Delhi. He has been in Delhi for the last ten to twelve years. He submitted his application on September 19, 1996. On October 3rd the local Police verification was over. He was asked to submit the 'No Objection Certificate' on January 16, 1997. When he contacted them on February 3, 1997, they said NOC was not necessary and that his passport would be ready and would be despatched to him shortly. This was on March 19, 1997. He contacted them on 10th March, 4th April, 8th May and in June, 1997. On all these days they said the passport was ready and it would be despatched within a week. Finally, on June 2, 1997, he was told, "You are born in Srinagar. Go back and get a certificate from Srinagar". He again approached the Passport Officer on 3rd June, 11th August and 8th September, but he got the same reply. Now, after one year and one month, on October 3, 1997, he was asked to submit a fresh application for being sent to Kashmir for verification. He submitted a fresh application on October 6 and the case-worker—he has given the name but I don't want to mention it—gave an assurance that the passport would be ready within six weeks. Again after six weeks no passport came. On February 13, 1998 he contacted the concerned Passport Officer. He was asked to contact the officers on Floor No. 2 but no concrete reply was given. He went on February 17, March 2 and March 3. He got several opportunities abroad but all of them were cancelled simply because he didn't get his passport.

I call upon the Government to look into this case and help this young man in earning his livelihood, instead of forcing him to go back to Kashmir. I don't know; there may not be any records available at all. He has migrated. He was compelled to leave his place and come over here. I request the Government to look into this case. I am forwarding this to the External Affairs Minister. The File Number is 26/A-0020 dated September 19, 1996—Regional Passport Office, Delhi. The cash

received is Rs. 600/-. Having brought it to the notice of the highest forum of this country, the Parliament, I hope the Passport Office will wake up and see to it that the passport is sent to this youngster as early as possible.

RE: UNETHICAL TOBACCO ADVERTISING BY MNCs

DR. Y. RADHAKRISHNA MURTY (Andhra Pradesh): Madam, during the last one week, this House has been discussing issues pertaining to politics, geo-strategic scenarios, the security of the country and so on. For a change, I would like to raise an equally serious matter pertaining to the health of the people of our country. Madam, 31st May is observed as "World No Tobacco Day" and 7th April this year, the World Health Organisation's theme was given as "Growing without tobacco". The World Health Organisation gives every year, on 7th of April, a theme for propagation and creating awareness amongst the people of the respective countries during the whole year. But, both these have gone unnoticed, almost unconcerned and drowned in the debates of more important or probably less important issues. The whole world is worried about this particular danger of tobacco smoking and other uses. There are plenty of recent studies, Madam, with warnings over the increasing use of tobacco all over the world and particularly in our country. The World Health Organisation says, "it is the world's largest single preventable cause of illness and its estimate shows that there are about 1.1 billion smokers in the world." The tragic part of it is 800 million people are in our 3rd World countries. The World Health Assembly in 1996 called for a world convention to create awareness about this problem and also to chalk out a programme to control the use of tobacco and smoking. A recent British study says, "Smoking can kill or harm in 24 different ways, with a large number of diseases including cancer—oral, lung, cervical, heart attacks, strokes, blood pressure, Berger's disease

so on and so forth." There are staggering statistics about India too, Madam. Number one, one million people die every year prematurely because of use of tobacco and its products in our country and 20 million young adults are hooked to this habit every year and 2 million boys and girls are enticed every year to the use of tobacco and its products. Every alternate bed in any cancer hospital is occupied by a tobacco user ultimately landing in cancer disease. And also 55,000 new children take to smoking every day. These are the statistics. And also, one death is occurring every three seconds because of use of tobacco in this country. Probably, it is more dangerous than the nuclear bomb.

Now the MNCs and the tobacco giants are slowly being pushed out from the West. Because they are more enlightened than us and they are eyeing for the third world countries for the use of tobacco and its products, particularly India with its large population. In United States, awareness about the ill health caused by the use of tobacco has resulted in a large amount of litigation in courts and these tobacco giants are forced to part with billions of dollars as compensation to the Government. Health Ministers of 15 countries of the European Union have recommended a ban on advertisements on tobacco and its products. Consequently, the European Union has banned advertisements in newspapers and bill boards. It banned, at the same time, sending personal communications by glossy folders to Members and specially important members of the community. They have also banned sponsoring of sports and cultural events by the 'tobacco' multi-national companies.

Coming to our own country, the MNCs are targetting children, specially young ones. This is the most distressful and despicable part of the story. I remember one lady hon. Member raising this topic last year and she became a Minister later but nothing has been done afterwards. 'Catch'em Young' is the slogan by the MNCs. Recently, in Mumbai and other

cities they have recruited children, given them uniforms, of gold and black colour, which is the logo of a particular cigarette company, offering Rs. 500. for three weeks of promotional activity for freely distributing cigarette packets in college campuses and high-school campuses and places where young people gather. We have advertisements in TVs and in cinema halls, bill boards, newspapers. Cigarette is a macho symbol for the young and impressionable and is a symbol of liberation for young and upwardly mobile female species. There is a phenomenal increase in the new recruits to this habit whereas statistics show that there is a perceptible decrease in western countries. By posting glossy folders and periodicals to 'educate' the Members of Parliament—I am sure, every one of us got these or is getting these periodically—they are trying to brainwash the representatives of the people and also Members of Parliament. Tobacco is used not only for smoking, as you know, but also for use in snuff, chewing gum, etc. All these cause oral cancer and lung cancer. There is a promotional war going on between cigarette companies and bidi companies to promote further smoking. Madam, each can claim only a better health hazard by use of their products.

The Government of Delhi has recently banned smoking in public places and advertisements in public places. I heartily compliment the Government but this measure alone is not enough. It is difficult to implement because there are so many other things we have to do. Even this measure is worthy of emulation by other States.

Tobacco habit promoters are not only in the MNCs but in the rich peasant's lobby in this country who are growing tobacco and also in the Ministry of Finance. I am sorry to say, in the Ministry of Commerce also. Madam I will just take a minute more. There is a nexus among the three organisations for the promotion of tobacco. As folders show, it gives large profits to farmers who grow tobacco; it gives large amounts of foreign

exchange, to the tune of Rs. 400 crores per year to the Government; it is also one of the sources of excise income to the Government to the tune of Rs. 3,500 crores per annum. Naturally, the Government is not prepared to lose that and the farmer is not prepared to lose that but the diseases that the people of our country suffer from, the cause of these diseases has to be considered very seriously.

As "The Hindu", a prestigious newspaper, had commented in its editorial recently, it is a business without ethics, it is a business without social responsibility and just promoting ill-health and death, so the Government of India and the enlightened Members of this august body should seriously ponder over this important matter and initiate necessary preventive measures. This is my submission, Madam. Thank you very much.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (MISS SAROJ KHAPARDE): Shri Ahluwalia is not here.

SHRIMATI CHANDRA KALA PANDEY (West Bengal): I associate myself with the subject.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (MISS SAROJ KHAPARDE): The whole House would like to associate itself with the sentiments expressed by Dr. Radhakrishna Murty. We really endorse his views. ...*(Interruptions)*...

RE: HIKE IN PETROL PRICES

SYED SIBTEY RAZI (Uttar Pradesh): Madam, I would just take one minute of the precious time of the House. Yesterday the Finance Minister presented the Budget. We have come to know that there is a hike of one rupee per litre in the prices of petrol due to the cess which will be diverted for development of National Highways. The report which we are getting is that every petrol pump dealer is charging rupees four per litre as additional hike in petrol prices. The hon. Petroleum Minister is here. We would like to know as to what the exact position is. If the actual hike is only one rupee, then why are they charging rupees

four per litre? If this is so, how are the ordinary people of this country going to bear this additional cost of rupees three which is being charged now? ...*(Interruptions)*...

पेट्रोलियम और प्राकृतिक गैस मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्री संतोष कुमार गंगवार): मैडम, लोक सभा के अंदर माननीय वित्त मंत्री जी ने इसका स्पष्टीकरण दे दिया है। जो उन्होंने भाषण दिया था उसमें कुछ मंत्रालय को समझने में गलती हो गई थी तो उसमें सुधार कर दिया गया है। अब फिर से जो बढ़ोत्तरी हुई है वह केवल एक रुपये की हुई है और बिक्री कर को मिला कर एक रुपये पन्द्रह पैसे के बीच बढ़ोत्तरी रहेगी। आपको कल सुबह अखबारों के माध्यम से ...*(व्यवधान)*...

उपसभाध्यक्ष (कुमारी सरोज खापर्डे): नहीं, लेकिन आप बताइये, अखबारों के बारे में तो मालूम है ...*(व्यवधान)*...

SYED SIBTEY RAZI: I am very sorry, Madam. ...*(Interruptions)*... The House should be informed. The Government should come out with the exact position in this regard. ...*(Interruptions)*... Why should we know it through media? ...*(Interruptions)*...

श्री संतोष कुमार गंगवार: सही रेट जो हुआ है आपको उसकी जानकारी मिल जाएगी। ...*(व्यवधान)*

SYED SIBTEY RAZI: Why should we know it through media? ...*(Interruptions)*... The House should be informed.

उपसभाध्यक्ष (कुमारी सरोज खापर्डे): मंत्री जी, देखिए, आपने जो अभी कहा कि लोक सभा में मंत्री जी ने इसके बारे में कुछ खुलासा किया है और आपने साथ में यह भी कहा कि कल आपको अखबारों के माध्यम से पता चलेगा तो यह बड़ी अजीब सी बात है। आप मंत्री परिषद् में मंत्री हैं। माननीय सदस्य ने जो मुद्दा उठाया है उसके बारे में आपको पॉजिटिवली कुछ कहना होगा।

श्री संतोष कुमार गंगवार: पॉजिटिवली हमारा कहना यह है कि जो आप आपने अखबारों के माध्यम से चार रुपये का समाचार पढ़ा था उसका सुधार कर दिया गया है और बढ़ोत्तरी केवल एक रुपये ही रहेगी और माननीय सदस्यों को इसकी वजह से जो तकलीफ हुई है उसके लिए खेद है।