

SHRI DALIT EZHILMALAI: Sir, the hon. Member has mentioned that passive and environmental smokers are also getting affected day by day. A proposal is under the consideration of the Government to bring forward a comprehensive legislation which is expected to reduce the use of tobacco in the country. Sir, already a statutory warning is printed on the cigarette packets and cartons. The Government of India is considering to bring forward a comprehensive legislation with regard to these tobacco products also. The Ministry is examining the steps which can discourage the use of chewing tobacco particularly by the children.

श्री शत्रुघ्न सिन्हा: सभापति महोदय, विश्व में जितने ओरल केन्सर होते हैं उनका वन घई हिन्दुस्तान में होता है और हिन्दुस्तान में जितने ओरल केन्सर होते हैं उनमें 90 प्रतिशत टोबैको च्युइंग की वजह से होता है, खासकर गुटका की वजह से होता है। तो मैं आपके जरिए माननीय मंत्री जी से जानना चाहूंगा कि क्या आपका कोई ऐसा इरादा है इस सर्वनाशी गुटका को बैन करने का? क्या मंत्री महोदय को यह भी पता है कि सन 2020 तक दुनिया में जितनी डैश होगी, मौत होगी, चाहे वह कार एक्सीडेंट की वजह से हो चाहे हृदय रोग से हों, चाहे मस्तिष्क रोग से हों, उनसे ज्यादा मौतें होगी सिर्फ तम्बाकू सेवन और सिगरेट के पीने की वजह से? तो क्या इस पर रोक लगाने का कोई इरादा है आपका, मंत्री महोदय?

SHRI DALIT EZHILMALAI: I really appreciate the concern of the hon. Member regarding banning of gutkha. Banning of gutkha involves three or four Ministries i.e., the Ministry of Industry, the Ministry of Commerce, etc. It also involves tobacco growers, manufacturers, producers, users, exporters, etc. So far as Health Ministry is concerned, we are studying this and in course of time, we will come out with a comprehensive Bill either to ban gutkha or to stop its use.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Question Hour is over.

ORAL ANSWERS TO STARRED QUESTIONS

Agitation by employees of IGNC A

*242. **SHRI RAJ NATH SINGH:** Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item published in the 'Dainik Jagaran' dated 23rd May, 1998, regarding arbitrary termination of an employees of IGNC A.

(b) if so, what is Government's reaction thereto;

(c) whether procedural enquiry as required under CCS Rules was held before terminating the services of the said employee;

(d) if not, the reasons therefor;

(e) whether Government would review the powers of the present Academi Director of IGNC A regarding appointment and termination of services of employees; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) Following the termination of services of an office-bearer of the employee's union of IGNC A on 22.5.1998, a large number of IGNC A employees were on strike, demanding his reinstatement as well as redressal of other grievances.

Government asked Member Secretary IGNC A on 8.6.1998 to redress the grievances of the employees amicably. The strike has been withdrawn following reinstatement of the employee in service of IGNC A with effect from 10.6.1998.

(e) and (f) Does not arise.

Discharge of Pollutants by Old Commercial Vehicles

*246. **SHRI GHUFRAN AZAM:** Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that the commercial vehicles having completed more than 15 years life are mostly discharging pollutants in the atmosphere;

(b) if so, whether the Central Pollution Control Board has failed to check the discharge of pollutants by those outdated commercial vehicles; and