

(c) It is not possible to detect Congenital blindness at prenatal stage. However, proper antenatal care under Child Survival and Safe Motherhood Programme is provided to all pregnant women to prevent blindness due to Vitamin 'A' deficiency in new born children and improving maternal care at the Community Level by providing training to Traditional Birth Attendants (Dai).

Call for strike against Modvat Modalities by Textile Processing Houses

*445. SHRI GUNDAPPA KORWAR: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that several textile processing houses have called for an indefinite strike to protest against MODVAT modalities which have recently been announced by Government; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reaction of Government in regard thereto?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) and (b) It has been reported that some textile processors in Surat, Hyderabad and Amritsar have gone on strike in protest reportedly against the proposed levy of basic excise duty on textile fabrics. Representations have been received by the Government from textile processors and others suggesting some changes. These are under consideration.

Constitution of the Expert Committee on Tobacco

*446. SHRI V. HANUMANTHA RAO: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received representation on misgivings of farmers on the constitution of the Expert Committee on tobacco;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps proposed to address these misgivings?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI SALEEM IQBAL SHERVANI): (a) to (c) An Expert Committee was constituted on 26.7.1995 to undertake a

comparative study on the economics of tobacco use inter alia examining the tax revenue and foreign exchange earnings, consumer expenditure on the one hand and the cost of tertiary level medical care facilities for treatment of tobacco related diseases etc. on the other. After the Committee was set up, there was a demand for inclusion of representatives of Trade Unions, farmers, tobacco growers' associations, beedi workers and the employees' federation on the Committee. Since the Government does not in any way propose to ban either the cultivation of tobacco or production of tobacco items, the proposal was not agreed to as the Expert Committee had specific terms of reference unconnected with these issues. On the insistence, however, of the tobacco growers, farmers and trade unions, a view was taken that an opportunity should be provided to them to formulate their views singly or jointly and place them before a designated officer who would assimilate and categorise them for the consideration of Government. An order to that effect was issued on 30.11.1995 extending this opportunity to representatives of all the major groups. A copy of Order is inclosed as Statements.

Statement

Order Stating the representatives for presenting their case before the export Committee on tobacco

No. T-16017/1/95-PH

Government of India

Ministry of Health & Family Welfare

Nirman Bhawan, New Delhi-El

30th November, 1995.

ORDER

It has been decided to provide an opportunity to the representatives indicated below to express their views on the proposed legislation which seeks inter-alia to ban the advertisement of tobacco products and regulate the labelling thereof. The representatives are requested to formulate their views singly or jointly and to place them before the Deputy Director General of Health Services, Dr. A. K. Kundu who would assimilate the same and bring them to the notice of the Government for action as deemed necessary.

1. Dr. P. Rao,
C/o. Indian National Trade Union
Congress,
West Godavari District Unit,
ELURU-534001.
2. Shri K. Appala
Raju,
President,
The Godavari Farmers and Tobacco
Growers Association, Polavaram-
534315 (West Godavari District,
ANDHRA PRADESH)
3. Shri P. Lakshman Swamy,
21/2, Pararlagusapuram,
MADRAS-600034
4. Shri K. Venkataratnam,
President,
The East Godavari District
Tobacco Growers and
Farmers Association,
Korukonda-533283 (East
Godawari District,
ANDHRA PRADESH)
5. Shri Tapas Dutta,
General Secretary,
All India Committee,
United Trade Union Centre
(Lenin Sarani) and
General Secretary,
All Bengal Beedi Workers and
Employees
Federation,
77/2/1 (Lenin Sarani),
CALCUTTA-700013.
6. Shri B. Madhu,
Andhra Farmers
Forum,
House No. 7/30/39,
Main Road, Hotel Swapna, near
L.I.C., RAJAHMUNDRY, (Andhra
Pradesh)
7. Shri H.B. Dave, General
Secretary, Bharatiya
Mazdoor Sangh, Ram
Naresh Bhawan, Tilak Gali,
Pahar Ganj, NEW DELHI-
110055.
8. Shri K.M. ShankarPrabhu,
President,
Karnataka Beedi Industry
Association, TVS Sadan, Kodumul
Ranga Rao Road, Kodialbail,
MANGALORE-
575003 (Karnataka
State)

2. Dr. A.K. Kundu, DDG(P) is directed to
give a hearing to the representatives
indicated above and to categorise
their point of view into different
operational difficulties which are
foreseen by them and to let the
Ministry have a note on the subject at
the earliest.

(SHAILAJA CHANDRA)
JOINT SECRETARY

To

As per list attached.

Copy also forwarded to Dr. A.K.
Kundu, DDG(P), Directorate General of
Health Services, Nirman Bhawan, New
Delhi.

1. Dr. P. Rao,
C/o. Indian National Trade Union
Congress,
West Godawari District Unit,
CHURU-534001
2. Shri K.Appala Raju,
President,
The Godavari Farmers and
Tobacco Growers Association,
Polvaram-534315 (West
Godavari District, ANDHRA
PRADESH)
3. Shri P. Lakshman Swamy,
21/2, Paranagusapuratn,
Kodambakam, MADRAS-
600034.
4. Shri K.
Venkataratnam,
President,
The East Godavari District Tobacco
Growers and Farmers
Association, Korukonda-533283
(East Godawari District, ANDHRA
PRADESH)
5. Shri Tapas Dutta,
General Secretary,
All India Committee,
United Trade Union Centre (Lenin
Sarani)
and General Secretary,
All Bengal Beedi Workers and
Employees
Federation, 77/2/1 (Lenin Sarani),
CALCUTTA-700013.

6. Shri B. Madhu,
Andhra Farmers Forum,
House No. 7/30/39,
Main Road, Hotel Swapna, Near L.I.C.,
RAJAHMUNDRY, (Andhra Pradesh)
7. Shri H.B.Dave,
General Secretary,
Bharatiya Mazdoor Sangh,
Ram Naresh Bhawan,
Tilak Gali, Pahar Ganj,
NEW DELHI-110055.
8. Shri K.M. Shankar Prabhu,
President,
Karnataka Beedi Industry Association,
TVS Sadan, Kodumul Ranga Rao Road,
Kodialbai, MANGALORE-575003.
(Karnataka State)

Lok Adaltas in States

*447. SHRIRAMJI LAL: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Lok Adalats are functioning in every State;
- (b) if so, to what extent these have been useful;
- (c) whether Government would like to extend them at district level;
- (d) whether Government will constitute family court also on the pattern of Lok Adalats; and
- (e) if so, by when?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF LEGAL AFFAIRS, LEGISLATIVE DEPARTMENT AND DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE (SHRI RAMAKANT D. KHALAP): (a) and (b) As per information available with the National Legal Services Authority, the Lok Adalats are being organised in the States of Andhra Pradesh, Assam, Bihar, Goa, Gujarat, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Karnataka, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Orissa, Punjab, Rajasthan, Sikkim, Tamil Nadu, Tripura, Uttar Pradesh, West Bengal, Chandigarh Administration, National Capital Territory of Delhi and Pondicherry.

(c) Under the Legal Services Authorities Act, 1987 which has come into force w.e.f.

9th November, 1995, one of the functions of the District Legal Services Authorities is to organise Lok Adalats within the District.

(d) There is no proposal to constitute Family Courts on the pattern of Lok Adalat.

(e) Question does not arise.

Function of Indian Airlines and Air India as Allied Service

*448. MAULANA OBAIDULLAH KHAN AZMI: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the Offices and Departments in Delhi where Indian Airlines and Air India are functioning as an allied service;

(b) the policy and criteria for posting staff and offices at such places;

(c) the policy and criteria for transfer of such staff and officers;

(d) whether Government are aware that posting at one place for a long period results into nexus and malpractices; and

(e) the steps taken to avoid long stay of officers and staff at one place?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI CM. IBRAHIM) (a) There are some areas of cooperation between Indian Airlines and Air India, but the two airlines are not functioning as an allied service.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

(d) and (e) Posting and transfers are made keeping in view the availability of posts, suitability of employees and on administrative consideration.

Visit of Indian/Foreign Tourists in Kanyakumari

*449. SHRI N. THALAVAISUNDARAM: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) the number of tourists, Indian/Foreign, who visited the place of tourist interest in Kanyakumari during last year, and during current year; and

(b) the measures taken by Government to provide facilities like cheaper accommodation for low budget tourists?