

[Shri Dineshbhai Trivedi]

publish it. I do not know what impression it will have on the young minds.

Every day, rape cases are increasing. Terrorism we have been talking about. These things are increasing because there is an erosion in our culture, in our tradition, and we are watching with a helpless attitude. I pray to the Government through you, Madam, to immediately ban these and look into this entire affair. Thank you.

SHRI M. A. BABY (Kerala): I request the honourable Minister, Mrs. Margaret Alva, to stand up and react squarely. . . . (Interruptions). . .

SHRI BHUBANESWAR KALITA (Assam): Madam, the magazine in which this article has been published., Sunday, is a family magazine, and I do not know how they could publish such a thing..... (Interruptions)... It is very unfortunate. I associate myself with Shri Trivedi.

SHRIMATI MTRA DAS (Orissa): Madam, we draw the attention of the Government to this matter and request them to take action in the matter.

SHRI M. A. BABY: Madam, I expect the honourable Minister, Mrs. Margaret Alva, to stand up and react to this.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES, AND PENSIONS (SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA): Madam, I have taken note of it. I have also seen this advertisement and I am as much concerned as the honourable Members are, and I can assure you that I will bring your views—besides mine, which I have already done—to the notice of the concerned Minister.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: I think it was at the time when Mrs. Alva was the Minister for Women and Child Welfare that she had brought the Bill—the Indecent Exposure of Women Bill—and it had been passed by Parliament.

I think Mrs. Alva is the right person. . . . (Interruptions)

SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA: Madam, I will convey to the Minister concerned, the strong views of the House on this.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: The hands of the Government are strong on this—they are not tied but loose—to take action.

SHRI M. A. BABY: Madam, there is the question of indecent exposure of men also in some of the advertisements!

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: You have to bring another Bill for that!

Increasing Accident Deaths of Children in Delhi

SHRI JAGMOHAN (Nominated): Madam Deputy Chairman, I would like to bring to the notice of the House and of the Government the increasing number of deaths of children in Delhi and other major cities in road accidents.

Madam, during the period January-October, the increase in the death of children due to accidents has been 40 per cent. It is really very alarming and it is largely due to the fact that traffic regulations are not being enforced and children are being taken in rickshaws and other vehicles and there is overcrowding in buses, rickshaws and other vehicles. Though the number of vehicles has increased, the traffic authorities are not restricting the number of children to be taken in a vehicle. This has resulted in a large number of accidents.

If there is a shortage of traffic personnel, I would suggest that at least during the period when children go to school and return from school, at those times special flying squads should be constituted to have strict vigil over these vehicles. Otherwise the number of accidents involving children will go on increasing. Already we have the dubious distinction of having the highest traffic accident rate in the world, and I think we will be increasing this number tremendously if no action is taken. Thank

¹ you, Madam.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Rest of the Special Mentions will be taken up after lunch. The House is adjourned till 2.30 p.m.

The House then adjourned for lunch at thirty minutes past one of the clock.

The House reassembled after lunch at thirty-three minutes past two of the clock. The Vice-Chairman (Shri M. A. Baby) in the Chair.

SPECIAL MENTIONS—Contd

Health Hazards as a result of excessive use of pesticides in Agriculture..

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI M. A. BABY): We shall continue with special mentions. Shri M. Padmanabham.

SHRI MENTAY PADMANABHAM (Andhra Pradesh): Thank you very much, Sir. I would like to bring to the notice of this House a very very important issue, the issue of pesticide poisoning in agricultural operations. This issue is very important to me because Andhra Pradesh is one State where pesticide is used in large quantities.

The pesticide use in India has multiplied 30 times between 1960 and 1990. (Alter the introduction of the high-yielding varieties, in the name of the Green Revolution, the Ministry of Agriculture has encouraged the State Governments through their Extension Officers to propagate pesticide use as an essential ingredient for maximising the crop production. With active patronage of the Government pesticide-manufacturing companies, through disinformation and marketing techniques, have succeeded in creating a situation where it has become a fixation with farmers that unless pesticides are used in large doses, the crop yield would suffer. The pesticide industry has been using the electronic media to mislead the farmers about the role of pesticides in maximising the agricultural production. This was all done without creating the compensatory awareness amongst farmers about the deleterious

effects of over-use of pesticides. Agricultural scientists and environmentalists have been warning that over-use of pesticides would result in resurgence of both target and secondary pests since pesticide is not a selective biotic killer and it kills non-target species including natural predators and parasites, the enemies of pests. Pesticides have also polluted water, soil and air as they do not degrade easily and can persist in environment for at least twenty years. The extension workers, while stressing the benefits of use of pesticides, have not alerted the farming community on the severe health hazards that would result from excessive and careless use of pesticides. So effective has been the skilful use of media by the multi-nationals and indigenous pesticide producers, most farmers and agricultural labourers have a most benign view of pesticides. They treat them as medicine but not as poison. The extension officials of the Agricultural Department of the Centre as well as the States failed to educate the farmers at the need to use protective gears like face masks, gloves and boots while spraying the pesticides.

What is mo't distressing is that at least 70 per cent of pesticides used in India are banned in Western countries. The World Health Organisation have identified such banned or restricted pesticides as extremely toxic or hazardous. The environmental and health experts have identified the following pesticides as "the dirty dozen", namely DDT, BHC, Aldrin, EDB Chlordane, Methyl parathion. Paraquat, DBCP, Ch'oromido-form, 2, 4, 5-T, toxephene and PCP. We in India use all the above except one in copious quantities. The World Health Organisation confirms that exposure to the "dirty dozen" pesticides produce latent diseases like cancer, heart disease, frain., kidney, liver damage as well as birth defects.

The other serious aspect of indiscriminate imd overuse of pesticides is the resultant high toxic level in our food stream. According to a FAO study conducted in 1984 all the 1500 samples of food from different parts of our country revealed residues of DDT and