

श्री डी० पी० करमरकर : हा, माननीय सदस्य के प्रश्न पूछने के बाद अब हम डा० लक्ष्मीपति को लिखेंगे ।

**SHRI MAHESWAR NAIK:** May I know if the Government is aware that there are two sets of conflicting views about tobacco causing cancer and if so, has Government made any attempt to reconcile these two views?

**SHRI D. P. KARMARKAR:** Excepting the views of the tobacco manufacturers, there has been no conflict about the fact, because I do remember to have read some two years back that, outside the country, they put up a strong plea that tobacco does not cause cancer. But, so far as our investigations and the investigations outside the country show, there seems to be no doubt about the fact that tobacco does take a substantial part in the aggravation of cancer.

#### BOMBAY STEAM NAVIGATION COMPANY

\*508 **SHRI B. V. (MAMA) WARERKAR:** Will the Minister of TRANSPORT AND COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state: COMMUNICA

(a) whether it is a fact that the Bombay Steam Navigation Company recently complained to Government that they were sustaining a continuous loss from their steamer service along the West Coast;

(b) whether the Company asked for permission to enhance the present rates of steamer fares which were enhanced very recently;

(c) whether the Company intimated to Government that they would be compelled to close down their operations in case Government do not attend their aid to make up the losses of the company;

(d) whether Government have given the Company any assurance about compensation for the losses; and

(e) whether Government are aware that the public is greatly agitated over the enhanced rates allowed by Government to the Company?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TRANSPORT AND COMMUNICATIONS (**SHRI RAJ BAHADUR**): (a), (b), (c) and (e). Yes, Sir.

(d) No, Sir.

**SHRI B. V. (MAMA) WARERKAR:** May I know whether the Government has satisfied itself that the complaint of the Bombay Steam Navigation Company was satisfactory?

**SHRI RAJ BAHADUR:** Sir, so far as we know, after some announcement in the rates which was made in 1951-52, they made a small profit of Rs. 2.92 lakhs. But after that, they have again been making some losses. In 1955, they claimed an increase of 33.13 per cent in fares, which was not agreed to and a Committee was appointed and an increase was allowed in fares to some extent only. It is obvious that they have been running under certain loss.

**SHRI B. V. (MAMA) WARERKAR:** May I know if the loss will be avoided if the service is nationalised?

**SHRI RAJ BAHADUR:** Sir, that is a hypothetical question. I do not know whether they can be . . .

**SHRI B. V. (MAMA) WARERKAR:** I would like to know whether the Government intends to nationalise this steamer service?

**SHRI RAJ BAHADUR:** At present, we have no such intention.

#### SETTING UP OF MACHINERY FOR ADVISING GOVERNMENT REGARDING CONVENIENCES AND COMFORTS FOR STEAMER PASSENGERS ALONG THE KONKAN COAST

\*509. **SHRI B. V. (MAMA) WARERKAR:** Will the Minister of TRANSPORT AND COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have set up any machinery to advise them regarding the conveniences and comforts of steamer passengers along the