

SHRI L.K. ADVANI (New Delhi): Mr. Speaker, Sir, even though it is somewhat late, I think a wrong precedent would be set if even now we do not start the Question Hour. (*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: I agree with you, Mr. Advani. Let us start the Question Hour. I completely agree with you. Let me start the Question Hour.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: We are discussing Nagaland. (*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: You can discuss it in the house later on. Dr. Bengali Singh.

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ORAL ANSWER TO QUESTION

[*Translation*]

**Ban on Smoking**

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\*901. DR. BENGALI SINGH:  
SHRI P.M. SAYEED:

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have taken a decision for imposing a limited ban on smoking and if so, the places selected for this purpose;

(b) when the directives imposing a ban on smoking will become effective;

(c) whether Government have conducted any survey in this regard and if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

[*English*]

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NILAMANI ROUTRAY): (a) and (b). The Government has issued orders on May 7, 1990 prohibiting smoking in a few selected places, namely, hospitals, dispensaries and other health care establishments, educational institutions, conference rooms, domestic air-flights, air-conditioned chair cars, air-conditioned sleeper coaches in trains, suburban trains and airconditioned buses. The ban comes into effect after 30 days of the issue of the order.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Overwhelming Scientific evidence already exists to established the fact that passive smokers are as prone to smoke related diseases as the smokers themselves.

(*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

DR. BENGALI SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, what action is proposed to be taken by the Government against the persons defying ban on smoking? Will they be prosecuted? If they are to be punished then what will be the nature and mode of punishment to be given to them and how... (*Interruptions*)...

[*English*]

SHRI NILAMANI ROUTRAY: Although we have not conducted any regular survey to indicate the number of victims of the evil effects of the smoking habits yet the occasional sample survey undertaken by various organisations established the serious, alarming and hazardous consequences of tobacco smoking. India is the third largest producer of tobacco, next to U.S.A. and China and our excise revenue from tobacco products

seemed to exceed Rs. 2,000 crores per year. Our National Cancer Registry data shows that the number of cancer patients in India are more than that of America and that about one million people die in India due to tobacco caused disease. (*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

DR. BENGALI SINGH: Will the Government undertake a publicity campaign against smoking on T.V. on the lines of the Family Planning publicity campaign? In how many cases of fires in the jhuggi jhonpri areas smoking had been the cause?... (*Interruptions*)...

[*English*]

SHRI NILAMANI ROUSTRAY: Considering the gravity of the issues in relating to public health the World Health Organisation (WHO) requested all the nations to take effective steps to protect non-smokers from involuntary exposure to tobacco smoke in transport, restaurants and places of work and entertainment. The WHO has banned smoking in its premises in Geneva and requested all its offices all over the world to follow this... (*interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

DR. BENGALI SINGH: Does the Government propose to impose a ban on the cigarette advertisements? If so, when? ... (*Interruptions*)...

[*English*]

SHRI NILAMANI ROUSTRAY: We in India have accepted the request of W.H.O. and accordingly the Cabinet Secretariat have issued Administrative directives to all central Government Departments banning smoking in selected public places on 7.5.90 and this order will be effective from 6th June, 1990. It

has also been ascertained that the Ministry of Health & Family Welfare is considering to bring out a comprehensive legislation to ban smoking and other uses of tobacco in public places... (*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: I am continuing with the Question Hour.

(*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

RE : DEMAND FOR PRESIDENT'S RULE  
IN HARYANA CONTD.

MR. SPEAKER: The Prime Minister want to say something. Please take your seats. Shri Kumaramangalam, will you please take your seat?

(*Interruptions*)

THE PRIME MINISTER (SHRI VISHWANATH PRATAP SINGH): I have already mentioned in the House that we will discuss it in the Cabinet meeting...

AN HON. MEMBER: When?

SHRI VISHWANATH PRATAP SINGH: Before we meet tomorrow... (*Interruptions*)

Please listen to me. I have already said that we will be discussing it in the Cabinet before the Parliament assembles tomorrow because all inputs have to come. Break-down of the constitutional machinery is one of the conditions laid down in the Constitution. Other constitutional provisions are also there. So in the Cabinet all will apply their mind, get the constitutional opinion, political opinion and then come to a decision. That I have already said. (*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: Question Hours is over.