found that there is still room for improvement regarding effective utilization of steam. Especially, the present inventors have found that efficient steam-boiling can be realized by applying the steam to the group of noodle strings conveyed at an upper stage portion of the steaming machine.

[0007] The present inventors have diligently studied, and as a result, found that in the multistage steaming machine, efficient steam-boiling can be realized in such a manner that: the conveyor is provided at multiple stages such that the group of noodle strings carried in the steam chamber main body portion goes and returns plural times in the steam chamber main body portion along a first direction to be conveyed from an upper stage toward a lower stage in the steam chamber main body portion; and in addition, the group of noodle strings conveyed at the upper stage portion in the steam chamber main body portion is exposed to the steam to be conveyed to the lower stage.

Solution to Problem

[0008] According to an aspect of the present invention, there is provided a multistage steaming machine including: 1) a steam chamber main body portion including an inlet side through which a group of noodle strings to be steam-boiled is introduced and an outlet side through which the group of steam-boiled noodle strings is discharged; 2) one or a plurality of conveyors arranged in the steam chamber main body portion so as to convey the group of noodle strings and formed at multiple stages such that the group of noodle strings carried in the steam chamber main body portion through the inlet side goes and returns plural times along a first direction to be conveyed from an upper stage to a lower stage in the steam chamber main body portion and is then discharged through the outlet side; and 3) one or a plurality of steam pipes configured to apply steam to the group of noodle strings conveyed by the one or a plurality of conveyors only at the upper stage in the steam chamber main body portion, wherein the one or a plurality of steam pipes is/are provided within the conveyer and not provided in other stages than the upper stage.

[0009] The present inventors have further found that in the above multistage steaming machine, the steam can be further efficiently utilized by providing a member, which reduces a volume filled with the steam, in a space in the steam chamber main body portion.

[0010] According to the above embodiment, a member that reduces a volume filled with the steam in the steam chamber main body portion is provided in a space in the steam chamber main body portion.

[0011] Further, it is preferable that the above member exist inside the conveyor. According to the above embodiment, the member is provided inside the one or a plurality of conveyors.

CLAIMS

1. A multistage steaming machine comprising:

1) a steam chamber main body portion including an inlet-side side portion through which a group of noodle strings to be steam-boiled is introduced and an outlet-side side portion through which the group of steam-boiled noodle strings is discharged;

2) one or a plurality of conveyors arranged in the steam chamber main body portion so as to convey the group of noodle strings and formed at multiple stages such that the group of noodle strings carried in the steam chamber main body portion through the inlet-side side portion goes and returns plural times along a first direction to be conveyed from an upper stage to a lower stage in the steam chamber main body portion and is then discharged through the outlet-side side portion; and

3) one or a plurality of steam pipes configured to apply steam to the group of noodle strings conveyed by the one or a plurality of conveyors only at the upper stage in the steam chamber main body portion,

wherein the one or a plurality of steam pipes is/are provided within the conveyer and not provided in other stages than the upper stage.

2. The multistage steaming machine according to claim 1, wherein a member that reduces a volume of a space filled with the steam in the steam chamber main body portion is provided in a space in the steam chamber main body portion.

3. The multistage steaming machine according to claim 2, wherein the member is provided inside the one or a plurality of conveyors.

4. The multistage steaming machine according to any one of claims 1 to 3, further comprising:

1) a tunnel-shaped noodle introducing portion which is connected to the inlet-side side portion of the steam chamber main body portion and through which the group of noodle strings to be steam-boiled is conveyed in an obliquely upward direction; and

2) a tunnel-shaped noodle discharging portion which is connected to the outlet-side side portion of the steam chamber main body portion and through which the group of steam-boiled noodle strings is conveyed in an obliquely downward direction.

5. The multistage steaming machine according to claim 4, wherein:

a lower end of the steam chamber main body portion is arranged higher than an inlet end of the noodle introducing portion; and

the lower end of the steam chamber main body portion is arranged higher than an outlet end of the noodle discharging portion.