

(b) if not, what are the difficulties to be experienced by Government in doing so?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI NARHARI PRASAD SUKHDEO SAI): (a) No, Sir. Only a few forms are printed in Marathi language for use in rural areas of Maharashtra.

(b) The following difficulties will be experienced in printing of all kinds of Postal and Telegraph forms in regional languages, including Marathi:—

(i) Post and Telegraph operations by their very nature are cross-country operations. Printing all kinds of Postal and Telegraph forms in any particular regional language would result in operational impediments thereby inconveniencing the public.

(ii) Printing capacity of the Government Presses is limited.

Dysentery Epidemic in Maghalaya

3553. SHRI P. A. SANGMA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Garo Hills District of Maghalaya has been declared dysentery epidemic area;

(b) if so, how many people have died of dysentery in Garo Hills during the last four months;

(c) whether the epidemic has been controlled now; and

(d) if not, what measures have been taken/are being taken to check the epidemic?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI JAGDAMBI PRASAD YADAV): (a) The West Garo Hills have been declared as dysentery epidemic area.

(b) Twenty-two.

(c) Yes.

(d) Does not arise.

Rules for stabilising and emulsifying agents in Flavours

3554. SHRI TRIDIB CHAUDHURI: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to refer to the reply given to unstarred Question No. 7545 on the 20th April, 1978 regarding the finalisation of the draft Rules 61-A and 61-B about the use of stabilising and emulsifying agents in flavours and state:

(a) whether the Rules have since been finalised;

(b) if so, whether the notification has been issued in the Gazette of India and if so, the date and number of the same; and

(c) if not, the reason thereof for such a long delay in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI JAGDAMBI PRASAD YADAV): (a) to (c): The Rules have not yet been given a final shape. As soon as these are finalised, they will be notified in the Gazette and a copy of the notification will be laid on the Table of the Sabha as required under section 23(2) of the Prevention of Food Adulteration Act, 1954.

Preventive action regarding Blindness

3555. SHRI RAMA CHANDRAN KADANNAPPALLI: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) since we have the largest blind population in the world and a significant part of this could have returned their sight if only timely preventive action were taken, and why Government is not taking any sympathetic steps in this regard;