

**Mr. Deputy-Speaker:** Order, order. After all, the hon. Member is aware that some authority has to take a decision as to whether famine should be declared or not. There are rules and regulations. There are a number of Famine Codes. They may be referred to. As to why they have not declared a particular area as a famine area, I can only say that in respect to that matter, the hon. Member wants to substitute his judgement for the judgement of the Government. What can I do here?

**Shri Raghavaiah:** Is it the policy of the Government not to declare famine areas as famine areas?

**Mr. Deputy-Speaker:** That is not the policy. Wherever there is a famine according to them, they declare. That is, they declare it wherever necessary. Where they do not think it necessary, they do not declare. In regard to this matter, they do not accept the hon. Member's view. So, there is no use pursuing this matter. Next question.

#### DRUG CONTROLLERS AND INSPECTORS

\*243. **Col. Zaidi:** (a) Will the Minister of Health be pleased to state whether there are Drug Controllers and Drug Inspectors functioning in all the States since the passage of the Drugs Act in 1948?

(b) What is the number of firms against whom action has been taken on the reports of the above-mentioned officers?

**The Deputy Minister of Health (Shrimati Chandrasekhar):** (a) The Drugs Act was brought into force from the 1st April, 1947, in all Part A States and the Part C States of Ajmer, Delhi and Coorg. Since then it has been extended to Part B States and the remaining Part C States. There is a full time Drugs Controller only in the Bombay State. In the other Part A States and Part C States generally the Administrative Medical Officers or other Senior Officers look after the enforcement of the Drugs Act. Drugs Inspectors have been appointed in all Part A States and the Part C States of Delhi, Ajmer, Coorg, Bhopal and Bilaspur. As regards Part B States they have yet to make rules under the Drugs Act, 1940, in consultation with the Drugs Technical Advisory Board. Necessary action to appoint Drugs Inspectors will be taken by these States thereafter.

(b) According to information received from Part A and Part C State Governments, action has so far been taken against 912 firms.

**Col. Zaidi:** Is Government aware that a lot of prejudice against drugs made by Indian companies exists in India, even in Government hospitals; and in the light of the action taken by the Government what progress is being made to popularize and enforce the use of drugs, made by Indian firms, in the country?

**The Minister of Health (Rajkumari Amrit Kaur):** Sir, I think the prejudice is gradually dying down, and where the standards are adjudged as equally good the Indian firms are given preference.

**Shri V. P. Nayar:** May I know whether Government are aware that deaths due to the consumption of 99 per cent. poisonous alcohol, bottled under different labels, such as Tincture Zingiberis, Tincture aurantium etc., are on the increase, especially in prohibition areas, and whether Government have taken any steps to proceed against the manufacturers of such spurious killing drugs?

**Rajkumari Amrit Kaur:** Sir, the hon. Member must know that the enforcement of the provisions of the Drugs Act is the business of the State concerned. It was brought to my notice, especially in regard to the State of Travancore-Cochin, that such alcohol was being prepared, and I have informed the State of it and asked them to take suitable action.

#### BHAVNAGAR-TARAPUR RAILWAY LINE

\*244. **Shri Dabhi:** Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government propose to construct Bhavnagar-Tarapur Railway Line;

(b) if the answer to part (a) above be in the affirmative, when the work of the Railway is going to begin;

(c) when it is likely to be completed;

(d) what is the estimated expenditure; and

(e) what would be the length of the proposed line?

**The Deputy Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Alagesan):** (a) No decision on whether this line should or should not be constructed has yet been taken.

(b) and (c). Do not arise.

(d) The expenditure will depend on the alignment adopted; a rough estimate would be Rs. 5 lakhs per mile.

(e) Approximately 74 miles.