

(c) The posts are required to be filled up as per the prescribed procedure involving advertisements, selection and obtaining approval of the appropriate authority. No definite time by which these posts are likely to be filled can, therefore, be indicated.

Deadly virus

1476. SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item captioned "Deadly virus may have found ground in India" appearing in the 'Pioneer' on February 18, 1996;

(b) the reaction of the Government thereto;

(c) the preventive measures the Government propose to take in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE AND MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI A.R. ANTULAY) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The Government is seized of the problem. A board action plan for strengthening disease surveillance has been prepared which envisages collection and flow of information, strengthening of laboratory diagnostic services, networking of centres, and continuous monitoring of disease prevalence.

Food poisoning cases

1477. SHRI RAJNATH SONKAR SHASTRI : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether some cases of food-poisoning were reported from New Delhi Municipal Council schools during 1995;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any enquiry was conducted in this regard;

(d) if so, the outcome of the enquiry; and

(e) the concrete measures taken to check recurrence of such cases of food-poisoning in these schools in the future?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE AND MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI A.R. ANTULAY) : (a) and (b) Two cases of food poisoning were reported from NDMC schools during August and December 1995 due to consumption of stale bread.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) The bread supplied to the school was found to be contaminated but source at which contamination took place could not be ascertained.

(e) The New Delhi Municipal Council has initiated a

number of measures to prevent recurrence of such cases including random sampling of food packets, supply of individual packets displaying code numbers and date of manufacture etc.

Ban on re-use of old tins

1478. SHRI R. SURENDER REDDY : Will the Minister of CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Directorate General of Health Services has proposed to ban re-use of old tins for packing the edible oils;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Government of Gujarat has recently urged the Union Government to defer the ban as it would push up prices of edible oils and cause hardships to the consumers and the oil millers;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the reaction of the Union Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (DEPARTMENT OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM) (SHRI VENOD SHARMA) : (a) and (b) Use of second hand tins containers for packing of edible oils has been banned keeping in view the health of the consumers.

(c) and (d) Yes Sir. Government of Gujarat has requested the Union Government to defer the ban as it would push the prices of edible oils and cause hardship to the consumers and the oil manufacturer. Gujarat Govt. has further suggested for postponement of the implementation of the orders till the issue is debated amongst the interested segments and a proper view is taken.

(e) It has been decided to maintain status quo since the amended rule has already come into force from 4th Feb., 1996.

[Translation]

Dollar Rate of Rice

1479. SHRI NAWAL KISHORE RAI :

DR. MAHADEEPAK SINGH SHAKYA :

SHRIMATI KRISHNENDRA KAUR (DEEPA) :

SHRI BALRAJ PASSI :

Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have decided to export rice against the exchange of dollar only;

(b) if so, the facts thereof