

all questions are to be answered by the students; and

(d) if so, the instructions proposed to be issued to such public schools?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI ARJUN SINGH): (a) No, Sir. No such norms or guidelines have been issued in respect of internal tests and examinations in unaided private schools (some of which are known commonly as "Public schools").

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) It is not considered necessary to issue any instructions in this regard.

Preference to Regional Languages

7235. **SHRI MOHAN RAWALE:** Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) Whether the local language of the respective State is given preference in non-Hindi speaking States;

(b) if so, whether the local language Marathi is being given preference in Maharashtra by the Railway Administration;

(c) if so, the details in this regard; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN): (a) and (b). Yes, Sir.

(c) Although in the Offices of Central Government, which include the Offices of the Railway Administrations, official work can be transacted either in Hindi or in English, but regional language of the state concerned

is also given preference in specific items like Notice boards, station name boards etc. and in the documents, forms etc. meant for use of the public.

(d) Does not arise.

Use of Colours and Flavours in Soft Drinks

7236. **SHRI MANIKRAO HODLYA GAVIT:** Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the measures taken to check arbitrary and indiscriminate use of artificial colours and flavours in soft drinks and confectionery during the last three years; and

(b) the action taken against the manufactures of harmful colours and flavours and also against those using preventive colours in eatables and soft drinks under the relevant Acts and provisions of Food Products Order?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI D.K. THARADEVI SIDDHARTHA): (a) and (b). The lists of permitted colours and prohibited flavours have been prescribed under Prevention of Food Adulteration Rules, 1955.

The food health authorities of States/UTs, who are primarily concerned with administration of PFA Act, 1954 and Rule 1955 made thereunder, monitor quality of food, including eatables and soft drinks, and check arbitrary use of artificial colours and flavours.

Legal action is taken against those violating provisions of the PFA Act, 1954 and Fruits Product Order, 1955.