

(a) the works at present in progress or for which contracts have been awarded by the metro railway, Calcutta and the scope and value of such works, the names of the contractors, the period (dates) within which the contracts are to be executed.

(b) how much progress against each work has been achieved and whether such progress is adequate for completion in due time; and

(c) what action, if any, has been or is being taken in the cases of contractors who have failed to achieve expected progress ?

THE MINISTER OF TRANSPORT (SHRI BANSI LAL) : (a) to (c). The information is being collected and will be laid on the table of the Sabha.

Target Date for Completion of Calcutta Metro Railway Project

1693. SHRI AMAL DATTA : Will the Minister of TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Metro Railway Calcutta has revised the target date of completion of the Project to December 1989, if not what is the present target date for completion of the Project; and

(b) what are the time schedules for completion of the different sections according to the revised target date ?

THE MINISTER OF TRANSPORT (SHRI BANSI LAL) : (a) & (b) Due to severe constraint of funds and various other problems, the completion of the project has to be rescheduled. The work is now progressing satisfactorily and it is proposed to extend the services from Bhowanipur to Tollyganj by March 1986. Subject to availability of adequate funds, the entire project is scheduled for opening by December, 1989.

Production of Medicines

1694. SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL : Will the Minister of HEALTH

AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that some of the drug manufacturing units in private sector make two varieties of the same medicine—one for sale in the cities and the other in the rural areas ;

(b) whether it is also a fact that medicines which are sold in the rural areas are not of the same efficacy or are adulterated; and

(c) if so, the number of such cases that have come to Government's notice during the last three years the names of the firms involved and the nature of punishment given in each case ?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI MOHSINA KIDWAI) : (a) and (b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

Enforcement of Dowry Prohibition (Amendment) Act, 1984

1695. SHRI B.V. DESAI : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government have sought the cooperation of State Governments in giving due publicity and for enforcement of the Dowry Prohibition (Amendment) Act, 1984;

(b) if so, whether the Union Law Ministry had issued letters to the Chief Secretaries of the State ;

(c) if so, the gist of the letters ;

(d) the reaction of State Governments thereto ; and

(e) the efforts being made by the Union Government to enforce the Dowry prohibition Act ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS AND WOMEN'S WELFARE (SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA):

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) The gist of the letter explains the provisions of the Amended Act and also indicates areas where the cooperation of the State Governments is required. Some of the points on which the State Governments' attention has been drawn are :—

- (i) Any property or other valuable security given or agreed to be given in connection with a marriage to the bride or bridegroom or any other person will be dowry.
- (ii) The penalty for giving or taking dowry has been enhanced and might vary from imprisonment for a period of six months to two years and a fine of Rs. 10,000 as against Rs. 5,000 provided in the original Act.
- (iii) The amended Act makes it possible for recognised welfare institutions or organisations to lodge complaints about dowry offences and for Courts to take cognizance of such complaints.
- (iv) The Act applies to all persons irrespective of the region to which they belong.
- (v) The main instrument for the enforcement of the Act, is a list of presents to the bride or the bride-groom given at the time of marriage and to be maintained in accordance with the rules under the Act notified in the Gazette of India Extraordinary dated August 19, 1985.
- (vi) Failure to maintain the lists of presents in accordance with the rules or failure to enter any present in the list would have the effect of making all the present(s)

as not entered in the list "dowry" for the purpose of Section 3 of the Act and the giver and the receiver would become liable to punishment for giving or taking dowry.

(vii) The lists of presents may be registered under the Registration Act, 1980.

(viii) The rules make it incumbent for the bridegroom to maintain the list, which should contain a brief description of each present, its approximate value, the name of the person who has given it and where the present was given by a relation of the bride or the bridegroom, a description of such relationship.

(ix) The State Governments have been advised to explore the possibility of having mobile registration offices at periodical intervals for facilitating easy registration of lists of presents.

(x) Dowry is a deep-rooted evil and it would be possible to eradicate only by carefully planned action.

(d) The State Governments have assured all cooperation in implementing the Act.

(e) The Department of Women's Welfare has addressed all the State Governments/Union Territories to implement the provisions of the amended Act and also to take up a publicity campaign in the States in cooperation with various voluntary organisations working in the field so that the contents of the amended Act are made known to each and every person living in their States.

Effects of Colours/Dyes used in food stuff on human system

1696. SHRI MOHD. MAHFOOJ ALI KHAN ;
SHRI SANAT KUMAL MANDAL ;

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :