

(a) whether any critical analysis has been made with regard to the effects of the colours/dyes used in the food stuff on human system for the purpose of delisting or restricting the use of artificial colours ; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and whether Government propose to ban the use of harmful colours in food stuff ?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI MOHSINA KIDWAI) : (a) and (b). The Central Committee on Food Standards, a statutory advisory body to the Government, had set up an Expert Sub-Committee which went into the question of use of colours/dyes in food stuffs against the background of their effects on human system.

The Expert Sub-Committee has recommended to the Central Committee on Food Standards lowering of permissible limits of colours/dyes permitted under the P.F.A. laws and the C.C.E.S. is seized of the matter.

Flood Hazards in Indo-Gangetic Plains

1697. **SHRI S.M. BHATTAM :** Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) whether any steps are taken for achieving close collaboration with Nepal and Bhutan for avoiding flood hazards in the Indo-Gangetic plans ;

(b) whether Government have worked out details for the integrated water shed management in the river systems of Ganga and Brahmaputra ; and

(c) if so, what are the details ?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND) : (a) Hydrometeorological stations in Bhutan are under operation for improving flood forecasting and talks are being held for collaboration with Nepal and Bhutan for harnessing common

river water resources for multi-purpose benefits including mitigating flood hazards in the Indo-Gangetic plains.

(b) and (c). An Integrated Watershed Management Scheme in the catchments of flood-prone rivers was launched during the Sixth Plan by the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development and the scheme is continuing in the Seventh Five Year Plan also.

Manufacturing of Coaches during 7th Plan

1698. **DR. KRUPASINDHU BHOI :** Will the Minister of TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) the target for manufacturing coaches during 7th Plan period ; and

(b) the achievement so far made during last year (1984-85) against the target of manufacturing coaches fixed for that period ?

THE MINISTER OF TRANSPORT (SHRI BANSI LAL) : (a) The capacity for manufacturing of coaches including EMUs and Metro during 7th Five Year Plan is approximate 8100 coaches. The actual production of coaches depends upon the availability of funds.

(b) The total production of coaches including EMUs, coaches for export and Metro is 1308 against the target of 1342.

Flood Commission

1699. **SHRI V. TULSI RAM :** Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is a proposal under the consideration of Government to constitute a 'Flood Commission' on the pattern of 'Planning Commission' or the 'Finance Commission' ;

(b) if so, details thereof and the time by which a final decision is expected to be taken in this regard ; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The Government has constituted a National Commission on Floods which gave its report in March, 1980 and its recommendations are being implemented by the concerned authorities.

Extra duty on Motor Spirits

1700. SHRI E. AYYAPU REDDY : Will the Minister of TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) whether any extra duty is levied on Motor spirits in a State @ 16 paise per gallon to provide funds for roads and bridge works in the States ;

(b) whether this rate of 16 paise is found to be inadequate to take up substantial work for improving roads and bridges ;

(c) if so, whether there are proposals to raise the above said rate of 16 paise per gallon to 50 paise a gallon ;

(d) whether Government of Andhra Pradesh has made a request for enhancing the extra duty levy on motor spirits ; and

(e) if so, the reaction of the Government thereon ?

THE MINISTER OF TRANSPORT : (SHRI BANSI LAL) : (a) and (b). Yes, Sir.

(c) to (e). There have been demands from States including Andhra Pradesh for augmenting the Central Road Fund by raising the levy on motor spirits but it has not been found feasible to agree to this proposal.

Modernisation of Railways in the 7th Plan

1701. SHRI SRIKANTHA DATTA NARASIMHARAJA WADIYAR : Will the Minister of TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have a proposal to undertake modernisation programme of Railways in the 7th Plan ;

(b) if so, the name of the Railway routes proposed to be brought under the above modernisation programme during the 7th Plan ;

(c) the amount earmarked for the above purpose in that plan period ; and

(d) the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF TRANSPORT (SHRI BANSI LAL) : (a) to (d). Modernisation of Railways is a continuous process. The process of modernisation covers all areas, viz. rolling stock, traction, track, maintenance infrastructure, signalling and communication.

Improvements to different routes are planned on the basis of traffic anticipated. Routes connecting Delhi, Bombay, Calcutta and Madras and coal and mineral routes which carry heavy traffic will be given priority.

The Seventh Plan allocation is Rs. 12,334.30 crores.

Congestion in Major Ports

1702. SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKARA MURTHY : Will the Minister of TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is a serious congestion in major Indian Ports ;

(b) if so, what are the reasons for the congestion in Indian Ports ; and

(c) what measures are being taken to remove the same ?