

**Payment to Workers in Bridge
Department of Northern Railway**

9021. SHRI HARI KEWAL PRASAD: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether arrears of salary amounting to about rupees two crores, are due since 1973 to 2500 class IV employees working in bridge division of Northern Railway;

(b) if so, the reasons for such delay in payment of salaries; and

(c) the time by which the payments are likely to be cleared?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN): (a) to (c). Northern Railway has received some claims for arrear payment on account of grant of temporary status to certain casual labourers of bridge department of that Railway. These claims are under verification. Payment as due will be made after completion of verification process.

[*Translation*]

Yoga University

9022. SHRI RAJESH KUMAR: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to set up a Yoga University in order to conduct research on the scientific and spiritual aspects of Yoga;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI ARJUN SINGH): (a) to (c). Keeping in view

the Government policy on the setting up of new Central Universities and the severe constraint on the availability of resources, Central Government has no proposal under consideration to set up a Yoga University.

Scarcity of Ayurvedic Medicine

9023. DR. MAHADEEPAK SINGH SHAKYA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is shortage of some Ayurvedic medicine in market;

(b) if so, the names of those medicines and reasons therefore; and

(c) the steps Government propose to take for the adequate supply of such medicines in the market?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI ARJUN SINGH): (a) This Ministry has no information about any shortage of Ayurvedic Medicine in the market.

(b) and c). Does not arise.

Conversion of Bareilly-Pilibhit-Lucknow

9024. DR. P.R. GANGWAR: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to convert the railway line from Lucknow to Bareilly-via Pilibhit into broad-gauge line;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN): (a) No, Sir.

(b). Does not arise.

(c) Constraint of resources.

[English]

Nickel in Chocolates

9025. SHRI M.R. KADAMBUR JANARTHANAN: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Indian Chocolates contain traces of nickel, carcinogenic substance as residue; and

(b) if so, the steps taken by the Government to protect the health of children from the hazards of consuming such chocolates?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI D.K. THARADEVI SIDDHARTHA): (a) and (b). Environmental Research Laboratory, Lucknow, which is a small private laboratory, has screened a few samples of chocolates and reported that they show higher nickel content in chocolates. However, the result of samples of chocolates analysed at the National Institute of Nutrition, Hyderabad, a permanent research centre under the Indian Council of Medical Research, have been found to be in agreement with values reported from Denmark i.e. with a mean figure of 1.26 mg/Kg. Latest report of WHO has mentioned that there is lack of evidence of a carcinogenic risk from oral exposure of nickel. In fact, nickel has been shown as an essential trace metal in some plants and bacterial enzymes. Based on this information, the National Institute of Nutrition, Hyderabad, has opened that there is no need to lay down any maximum limit of nickel in chocolate.

Adulteration in Food Items

9026. SHRI SOBHANADREESWARA RAO VADDE: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have received any representations from the small retail traders in respect of adulteration in food items;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the corrective steps taken/proposed to be taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI D.K. THARADEVI SIDDHARTHA): (a) to (c). The Small Scale Retailer's Association have represented to the Govt. for curbing adulteration of food at the source to protect the retailers.

The Food Health Authorities of States/UTs have been advised to lay more stress in sampling of food at the level of wholesalers and manufactures. Adequate provisions also exist under the PFA Act, 1954 to safeguard the interest of the retailers in cases where adulteration has been done at the source.

Reservation in Admission

9027. SHRI RAM NARAIN BERWA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether reservation in admission in private schools has been made compulsory in Delhi; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI