

(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