

number of brands of Pan Masala are poisonous and hazardous for health ;

(c) if so, what are the measures taken by Government to check those Paan Masalas before allowing them for sale ;

(d) what action is taken against the erring manufacturers ; and

(e) how many manufacturers were black listed in the last three years for this reason, names and details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH (SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The principal ingredients of paan masala are Betelnut, lime, coconut, catechu Cardamom, Saffron, aromatic spices and flavours. According to our present knowledge these ingredients either singly or in combination are not likely to be harmful to human health. However, Indian Council of Medical Research has undertaken a study of carcinogenicity of different varieties of Betel nut.

(c) and (d). The Food Health Authorities of States/local bodies draw samples of paan masala from the market and get them analysed. If the samples are found to contain any injurious ingredient, legal action is initiated under the provisions of PFA Act, 1954.

(e) This Ministry has no information as the blacklisting of firms is done by the State Health Authorities.

[*Translation*]

Construction of Barrage in Hammid Nagar under Pun-Pun Irrigation Scheme

2556. SHRI RAMASHRAY PRASAD SINGH : Will the Minister of IRRIGATION AND POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the foundation stone of a barrage in Hammid Nagar under the pun-pun irrigation scheme was laid by the former Chief Minister of Bihar ;

(b) whether this scheme has been approved by Central Water Commission ;

(c) if so, the time by which the construction of the barrage will be completed and the estimated expenditure involved thereon ; and

(d) total area likely to be irrigated by the construction of this barrage ?

THE MINISTER OF IRRIGATION AND POWER (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) The project is under technical examination by the Central Water Commission in consultation with the State Authorities.

(c) The project is estimated to cost about Rs. 23 crores. The State Government has proposed an outlay of Rs. 1 crore during the VII Five Year Plan. Completion of the project will depend upon the outlays that will be provided thereafter.

(d) The project envisages creation of an irrigation potential of about 73,000 hectares in Gaya and Patna districts of Bihar.

Speed Breakers between Varanasi and Gazipur on Varanasi-Gorakhpur National Highway

2557. SHRI ZAINUL BASHER : Will the Minister of SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) whether speed breakers, in front of schools and bazars between Varanasi and Gazipur on Varanasi-Gorakhpur National Highway, have been laid ;

(b) if so, the names of the bazars and schools ; and

(c) the reasons for not laying speed breakers in front of Maupara Basic/Primary Schools and Maharajgunj Bazar between Saidpur and Ghazipur ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT (SHRI Z.R. ANSARI) : (a) No speed breakers have been provided. However, at some places rumble strips have been provided to alert the drivers.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) As a matter of policy, speed breakers are not provided on National Highways.