

dent was caused due to failure of the bus driver to stop the bus short of the closed level crossing gate. The bus driver was amongst those who lost their lives.

Foolproof Method to Prevent Use of Cheap Flavours

4125. DR. B.L. SHAILESH: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any expert studies have been made by his Ministry or any agency to assess the utility of the very common use of artificial/synthetic flavours and colours not only in non-alcohol beverages but also in a number of food articles and its food value;

(b) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons thereof;

(c) whether at present there is no fool proof method to prevent the use of cheap flavours having harmful effect at the manufacturers' end in these preparations and such colours/flavours are likely to have eventually ill-effects on human health; and

(d) if so, what steps Government propose to take to discourage the use of these additives which will also lead to a reduction in the cost of the articles in which these are used?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (KUMARI SAROJ KHAPARDE): (a) Ministry of Health & Family Welfare has not undertaken any such studies and Government is also not aware of any such studies carried out by other agencies.

(b) and (c). Use of harmful synthetic flavours and colours has been prohibited under the Prevention of Food Adulteration Rules. Each proposal for the use of synthetic flavours and colours in food is examined and

screened by the experts before these are permitted under Prevention of Food Adulteration Rules. Only limited number of synthetic food colours are permitted in specified food articles in the prescribed quantities.

(d) Government is taking appropriate action by discouraging the use of artificial colours and flavours in foods, by way of reducing the numbers of permitted artificial colours from the Rules, by reducing the quantities of artificial colour, by enlarging the list of prohibited flavours and by similar various measures.

Accidents due to over speeding of trains

4126. SHRI SATYENDRA NARAYAN SINHA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any instrument installed in locomotives that can detect the speed limit;

(b) if so, whether drivers have been found to exceed speed limits; and

(c) whether several accidents have occurred due to over speeding of trains?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) Yes, Sir. Locomotives working Mail and Express trains are provided with speed recorders. Locomotives working passenger trains are provided with speed indicators only. Some locomotives working freight trains are provided with speed indicators.

(b) Yes, Sir. Occasionally.

(c) In 1986-87 there were 20 cases of train accidents on Indian railways due to over speeding. During the first 7 months of 1987-88, there have been 4 cases.