

(a) No, Sir. However, the Development Council for Food Processing Industries whose term expired on 16-7-88 constituted a Panel on Research and Development and Human Resource under the Chairmanship of Dr. M.V. Rao, Special Secretary, Agriculture Research and Education.

(b) The Panel has identified priority areas for research and development activities. Emphasis has been placed on Quality Control and design and development of machinery and equipment for Food Processing Industries. The Panel has also recommended that a co-ordinating mechanism to make use of the existing institutions and facilities in the field of food processing be set up so as to strengthen them wherever required and tune their output to meet the well-identified national needs on the basis of a mission oriented approach. The recommendation made by the panel and its implications will have to be studied by the Government indepth before any further action is contemplated.

Settlement of Gujarat Drought Claims by GIC

2495. PROF. MADHU DANDA-VATE : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the 1987 Gujarat drought claims have not been settled so far by the General Insurance Corporation of India on the ground that they are fraudulent though the claims have been endorsed by the State Government ; and

(b) if so, whether Government will intervene to ensure that the drought victims are not left to the vagaries of the G.I.C. which is reluctant to discharge its obligations while reporting substantial profits ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHYAM LAL YADAV) : (a) and (b). The indemnity claims under the Comprehensive Crop Insurance Scheme (CCIS) for Kharif 1987 season of Gujarat have not yet been settled. The details of the total claims payable have been received by the Government from General Insurance Corporation of India (GIC). Action has been initiated by the Government to settle these claims after

scrutiny. There is no reluctance on the part of G.I.C. to discharge its obligations in administering the CCIS.

Ban on Baby Food Products Advertisement

2496. DR. G. VIJAYA RAMA RAO : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether ban on baby food products advertisements is being circumvented ; and

(b) whether any suo moto action has been taken or is proposed to be taken in the matter ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS AND WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA) : (a) and (b). The ban on advertisements of baby food over AIR and Doordarshan is in force since May, 1983. No such case of circumvention has come to the notice of this Ministry. Hence the question of taking action has not arisen.

New Non-Polluting Power Driven Mass Transportation System

2497. SHRIMATI KISHORI SINHA : Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the increasing number of city buses cause rising levels of atmospheric pollution in the urban areas ;

(b) whether Government are aware that the Metallurgical Consultants of India Limited has invented a system of using the energy stored in a fly wheel to run a city mass transportation system ;

(c) whether Government propose to replace these buses by non-polluting power driven mass transportation system ; and

(d) if so, the steps taken by Government to introduce this system in various metropolitan cities ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI RAJESH PILOT) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Metallurgical and Engineering Con-