

(c) what was the longest period recorded for one consignment to get cleared of Health clearance;

(d) whether it is a fact that a number of consignments of edible oil which did not conform to P.F.A. standards, the authorities in Bombay did not give a second chance in an appellate laboratory; and

(e) how many consignments were not given a second opinion by the Authorities in Bombay and what happened to such consignments?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMEN-  
TARY AFFAIRS AND LABOUR  
(SHRI RAVINDRA VARMA): (a) 247

(b) and (c). Where a consignment after analysis appears to conform to prescribed specifications, the Port Health Officers have been able to give clearance immediately. However, when consignments did not meet the specifications, the matter has had to be referred to the Ministry for advice. Wherever it has been found technically possible to rectify any deficiencies in the consignments by reprocessing/refining, advice has been given accordingly. The consequent reference to the Ministry and the process of refining and re-analysis of the consignment and final health clearance would necessarily take some time. The longest period taken for this process in one particular case was one year and four months.

(d) No.

(e) Does not arise.

**"Myopia" Eye Disease**

11142. SHRI CHITTA BASU: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is not treatment of high Myopia (eye disease) available in India; and

(b) if so, whether Government proposes to find out ways and means for the treatment of this eye disease

whose incidence is on increase in India?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMEN-  
TARY AFFAIRS AND LABOUR  
(SHRI RAVINDRA VARMA): (a) No. The treatment of high Myopia is prescription of glasses, contact lenses and operation and the same is available in India.

(b) Does not arise.

**Grants from Bidi Welfare Fund to West Bengal**

11143. SHRI MUKUNDA MANDAL:  
SHRI A. K. SAHA:

Will the Minister of PARLIAMEN-  
TARY AFFAIRS AND LABOUR be  
pleased to state:

(a) how much grants have been provided for the welfare of Bidi workers of West Bengal during the last three years from Bidi Welfare Fund (Year-wise) and share of West Bengal in terms of percentage in relation to the total Bidi Welfare Fund; and

(b) what measures have so far been taken by Government for the welfare of Bidi workers of West Bengal?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN  
THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND  
PARLIAMEN- TARY AFFAIRS (SHRI  
LARANG SAI): (a) Bidi Workers  
Welfare Fund had been brought into  
effect only from 15th February, 1977.  
The amounts provided for different  
activities in West Bengal during 1977-  
78 and 1978-79 were as follows:—

	1977-78	1978-79
	Rs. (in lakhs)	
Medical . . . . .	0.87	1.96
Housing . . . . .	--	4.95
Scholarships . . . . .	--	0.45

West Bengal contributed. approxi-  
mately 15 per cent of the total fund.

(b) Schemes for providing medical  
and health care, subsidy and loan for  
housing, scholarships for dependents