

Withdrawal of Court cases for Adulteration in Vanaspati; Maida and Mustard Oil

2423. SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYE : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have instructed to withdraw about 9 court cases concerning adulteration against big businessmen including an industrialist owning a Vanaspati mill in Delhi;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the Metropolitan Magistrate of Delhi had rejected a plea of the Delhi Administration for the withdrawal of a case of Maida and had expressed his doubts about the intention of the Administration, while in another case of adulteration of mustard oil, a Magistrate had passed strictures against the top official of the test laboratory; and

(c) the full facts in this regard and action taken in public interest?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI NIHAR RANJAN LASKAR) : (a) Delhi Administration had sought for withdrawal of six court cases since January, 1980. No industrialist owning a vanaspati mill in Delhi was being prosecuted.

(b) The Metropolitan Magistrate had rejected the plea of Delhi Administration for withdrawal of a case of maida but did not express doubts about the intention of the Administration. In one case of adulteration of mustard oil the Magistrate passed some strictures against the work of the food laboratory at Delhi.

(c) In one case pertaining to the prosecution of T.B. Association of India Delhi Administration decided in November, 1979 to withdraw the prosecution on the ground that the party concerned could not be said to be engaged in the business of selling food products and hence could not be proceeded against under Prevention of Food Adulteration Act. But this however, was effectuated in January, 1980.

In another four cases Delhi Administration decided to withdraw the cases on the grounds that the prosecution had not been initiated during 1978 and 1979 on valid grounds.

In one case where Delhi Administration sought withdrawal in the interest of justice, the court did not agree and refused consent for withdrawal.

Delhi Administration has referred the case in which strictures have been passed against the working of the food laboratory, to the Crime Branch of Delhi Police.

All India Railway Personnel Branch Staff Association of Southern Railway

2424. SHRI KRISHNA CHANDRA HALDER : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether a memorandum dated the 25th October, 1980 has been received by the Railway Board from the All India Railway Personnel Branch Staff Association, Southern Railway Zone :

(b) if so, what are their grievances ; and

(c) what steps have been taken or are proposed to be taken to redress their grievances ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS AND IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN) : (a) Yes.

(b) There are a number of representations like revision of the yardstick for determining the strength of staff in the Personnel Branch, uniform yardstick over all the Indian Railways, promotional prospects of staff and change of designation of clerks and head-clerks etc. etc.

(c) In accordance with the Government's policy, staff representations received from any source at given due consideration and action as considered necessary is taken. The demands of all categories of staff including the Personnel Branch staff are considered and solved through the various tiers of the collective bargaining machinery—Permanent negotiating Machinery and the Joint Consultative Machinery and also in informal discussions.

Loss on Lucknow and Allahabad Divisions

2425. SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the Lucknow and Allahabad Divisions of the Northern Railway have been incurring heavy losses ;

(b) if so, the estimated loss suffered by the Northern Railway on these Divisions since January, 1980 as compared to the losses suffered during the corresponding period in 1979 ;

(c) whether Government have identified the reasons therefor ;

(d) if so, details thereof ; and

(e) the steps taken by Government to improve the situation ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS AND IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN) : (a) Information about income and expenditure and loss is compiled Railwaywise and not Divisionwise.

(b) to (e). Does not arise.

Eradication of Leprosy, Elephantiasis and other diseases

2426. **SHRI F. RAJAGOPAL NAIDU :** Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the areas where the leprosy, elephantiasis, guinea worm fluorosis are prevalent in the country have been identified ; and

(b) if so, the action taken to eradicate them ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI NIHAR RANJAN LASKAR) : (a) Yes. The information regarding Leprosy, Elephantiasis, Guinea worm, Fluorosis is as under:—

LEPROSY —This is prevalent in almost all the States and Union Territories. The States/Union Territories having incidence of leprosy have been identified and prevalence rate of leprosy thereon is available *vide* Statement. States having areas with high incidence include Andhra Pradesh, Orissa, Tamil Nadu, Lakshadweep and Pondicherry.

ELEPHANTIASIS—is a chronic disease manifestation of human filariasis. It is estimated that about 236 million people live in filaria endemic zones. The states with a high figure of population at risk are Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu and West Bengal. Some of the districts in the endemic states are yet to be surveyed to determine the extent of the problem.

GUINEA WORM—Based on the information furnished by District Medical and Health Officers of the States/Union

Territories, the States of Andhra Pradesh, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu, Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh, Karnataka, Gujarat and Union Territory of Goa are reported to have this infection.

FLUOROSIS—It has been reported to be a major public health problem, in several districts of Andhra Pradesh, Haryana, Karnataka, Kerala, Punjab, Rajasthan and Tamil Nadu.

(b) **LEPROSY**—The National Leprosy Control Programme is being implemented as a Centrally Sponsored Scheme to control the disease. Under this Programme, house to house survey is conducted in leprosy prone areas by the Medical and Para Medical Workers attached to the Leprosy Control Units, Urban Leprosy Centres and SET Centres and such patients are provided with treatment and free supply of anti-leprosy drugs along with free medical services as well as laboratory and indoor services.

FILARIA—The National Filaria Control Programme is being implemented in the urban endemic areas under which persons having filarial germs in their peripheral blood are identified and treated with anti-filarial drugs. Anti-larval measures are also undertaken in the highly endemic urban to areas reduce the density of carrier vectors. There is no cure available to treat advanced disease manifestation like Elephantiasis of limbs.

Three experimental projects are being conducted in Uttar Pradesh, Andhra Pradesh and Gujarat at selected rural locations to evolve a methodology for a Filaria Control Programme. In addition, under the auspices of the National Institute of Communicable Diseases, an experimental project have been completed in Lakshadweep Islands and has recently been extended to the Union Territory of Pondicherry under which the common edible salt is mixed with the diethylcarbamazine (DEC) and issued to the entire population of the territory for normal use in order to reduce the incidence of filaria. The results so far are encouraging.

GUINEAWORM—A plan to eradicate guinea worm disease has been envisaged. A taskforce meeting of the participating endemic states, Central Public Health Environmental Engineering Organisation, Indian Council of Medical Research, National Institution of Communicable Diseases along with Director General of Health Services, Government of India was convened on 20th and 21st November, 1980. It has been decided that the concerned States would ascertain the accuracy of information already submitted in the next two months for proper planning of the guinea worm eradication effort.