

(b) if so, whether India has studied its adverse impact on Britain's relations with developing countries; and

(c) India's reaction thereto?

**THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI P. V. NARASIMHA RAO):** (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c). Recently Foreign Ministers of 11 developing and developed countries held consultations in Vienna on November 7-8, 1980 in regard to the joint Mexican-Austrian proposal for an international meeting of some Heads of State/Government on co-operation and development. The list of countries to participate in the summit has not yet been finalised. Therefore it is not yet certain whether the United Kingdom will be participating in the meeting.

Apart from this meeting, it is to be hoped that the attitude of developed countries, including United Kingdom, towards the North-South dialogue would be positive.

**Colouring of food articles may cause cancer**

**4362. SHRI K. MALLANNA:** Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Food articles coloured by metanil yellow a chemical, instead of permitted food colours, may cause cancer; and

(b) if so, the reaction of Government in this regard?

**THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI NIHARANJAN LASKAR):** (a) The metanil yellow is a known carcinogen.

(b) The Prevention of Food Adulteration Act and the Rules made thereunder do not permit the use of this dye in food articles. The State Governments have also been advised, from time to time, to exercise greater check on the use of colours in foods.

### Passengers Amenities Committee

**4363. SHRI AMARSINGH RATHA:** Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to set up a Passengers Amenities Committee to provide better amenities at Railway Stations and in the trains;

(b) when the final decision is likely to be taken in this regard; and

(c) what are the terms of reference of the Committee?

**THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS AND IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN):** (a) and (b). The Government have since constituted the Passengers' Amenities Committee.

(c) A Statement is attached.

#### Statement

The terms of reference of the Committee are:—

(a) to review the policy and practices in vogue on the Railways in respect of provision of passenger amenities in trains and at railway stations;

(b) to suggest the list of items to be considered as passenger amenities and to review the norms for provision thereof;

(c) to suggest measures to maximise benefits to the passengers, keeping in view additional physical and financial requirements of amenities in the next five to ten years; and

(d) to consider the desirability of introducing standardisation of fittings and fixtures in trains and at stations, of water trolleys, water fountains at stations and of the system of fixing rent and other charges for various amenities, like retiring rooms, bed rolls, etc.

The tenure of the Committee is two years.