

Howrah Station

4199. SHRI R. P. DAS: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the chaotic conditions prevailing in Howrah Station premises; and

(b) if so, the steps taken so far to clear the station premises of unauthorised occupation and to remove the obstructions at the exit gates for the passengers using the South Eastern Railway Platforms?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS AND IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI (MAL-LIKARJUN): (a) and (b). The Railways are aware of unauthorised occupation by Howkers/vendors, beggars, etc. of the premises of Howrah Railway station. Various measures taken in the past have not yielded desired results. The help of the State Government has been sought to curb the nuisance.

Afro-Asian Legal Consultative Committee

4200. SHRI S. M. KRISHNA:

SHRI MADHAVRAO
SCINDIA:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether at a three-day meeting sponsored by the Afro-Asian legal Consultative Committee held recently, 23 Asian and African countries have unanimously expressed their misgivings over a proposal from developed countries that would tilt the balance in favour of the latter in the matter of exploration of the sea-bed for minerals; and

(b) if so, Government of India's reaction in this behalf?

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

(b) It may be recalled that the 3rd U. N. Conference on Law of the Sea—is working towards the establishment of an international regime to regulate mining of polymetallic nodules beyond the limits of national jurisdiction. Pending the coming into force of an international convention in this regard, which might take 4 to 5 years after the conclusion of the conference, the United States proposed that provisions should be made to protect preparatory investments in the international seabed area through advance site designation in favour of prospective contractors, who are mostly from the United States and other technologically developed countries, during the interim period. India appreciates the need to promote continued investments in the international seabed area even during the interim period, i. e. after the conclusion of the Conference and before coming into force of the Convention, in order to help the international community realise early benefits from the exploitation of the resources of the international seabed area, which are the common heritage of mankind. However, it feels that any proposal for the interim protection of investments to become acceptable should be subject to some important conditions, some of which may be mentioned as follows:

(i) Potential reserved mine sites to be allotted to the Enterprise of the International Seabed Authority should also be explored and developed to the same extent as the potential contract mine sites during the interim period.

(ii) the seabed mining industries seeking interim protection of their investments should agree to give training to select persons from the developing countries; and

(iii) the potential contractors seeking protection and security

during the interim period should not have already sought protection under any national legislation which is inconsistent with the Convention on the Law of the Sea. In other words, such national legislations should not regulate seabed mining during this interim period.

Advertisement of Limca

4201. SHRI K. LAKKAPPA:
SHRI DHARAM DAS SHAS-
TRI:

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 3387 on the 11th December, 1980 regarding advertisement of limca and state:

(a) whether the statement in respect of the amount of calories more or less as contained in Limca and other Lemon and Cola soft drinks of other brands has since been laid on the Table of the House;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken by Government to prosecute the company?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI NIHAR RANJAN LASKAR): (a) to (c) Details in regard to calorie content of Limca, Thums Up, 77, Campa Cola have been received from the Analyst and the question whether any action is possible is under examination.

Research for Drug to Cure T.B.

4202. SHRI M. RAM GOPAL REDDY: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any research is being made to find an effective drug to cure T.B.; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI NIHAR RANJAN LASKAR): (a) In order to find out effective combination of drugs to cure tuberculosis, research is being conducted in the Tuberculosis Research Centre, Madras, New Delhi T.B. Centre, New Delhi, T.B. Demonstration and Training Centre, Agra and T. B. Centre, Baroda.

(b) In these studies, regimens with high bacteriocidal activity employing Rifampicin, Pyrazinamide, Streptomycin and Isoniazid are prescribed to infectious tuberculosis patients to investigate the following aspects:

(i) The relative efficacy of twice-weekly and thrice-weekly regimens in the chemotherapy of pulmonary tuberculosis for 6 months.

(ii) The relative efficacy of once-weekly and twice-weekly chemotherapy during the maintenance phase of 3—6 months.

(iii) The benefit derived from streptomycin during the maintenance phase.

Proposal to hold International Conference on Leprosy Control in India

4203. SHRIMATI USHA PRAKASH CHOUDHARI: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is proposed to hold in India any International Conference on Leprosy control during 1981-82; and

(b) if so, what are its objectives and the preparation being made by Government to hold the Conference?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI NIHAR RANJAN LASKAR): (a) An International Leprosy Conference will be