

PRICES OF ALUMINIUM

3057. SHRI D. D. DESAI :
SHRI N. SHIVAPPA :

Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state the action taken by the Government to bring down the prices of aluminium ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI SUKHDEV PRASAD) : The controlled prices of aluminium and aluminium products are determined from time to time by a study of the actual cost of production, and is notified in terms of the Aluminium (Control) Order, 1970. In the present context of sharply rising costs of raw materials required for aluminium production, it is not possible to bring down the controlled prices of aluminium. Government is presently considering the question of increasing the controlled prices owing to higher costs of production.

SALE OF DEFECTIVE THERMOMETERS

3058. SHRI VEKARIA : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY PLANNING be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are aware that defective thermometers are being sold in Delhi and other parts of the country;

(b) whether the sale of defective thermometers is an offence;

(c) whether any arrest has been made in this connection; and

(d) if so, the facts thereof and the action taken ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY PLANNING : (SHRI A. K. KISKU) : (a) Occasional complaints have been received about defective thermometers being marketed in the country.

(b) Marketing of thermometers without the Indian Standards Institution certification mark or without a valid licence

under the Drugs & Cosmetics Act and Rules is an offence.

(c) and (d). No such information has been received. The manufacturers of thermometers are advised to conform to Indian Standards Institution standards whenever complaints are received.

AVERAGE LONGEVITY IN INDIA

3059. SHRI SHANKER RAO SAVANT : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY PLANNING be pleased to state :

(a) what was the average longevity in India in 1946-47 and what is it at present; and

(b) what are generally the causes for improvement in longevity ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY PLANNING : (SHRI A. K. KISKU) : (a) In 1946 the expectation of life at birth was 32.45 years for males and 31.66 years for females. Now it is estimated as 50.7 years for males and 49.3 years for females.

(b) The main reasons for improvement in longevity are :

(i) Reduction in death rate, due to successful implementation of various health programmes, from 27.4 per thousand population in 1941-50 to 15.1 in 1971.

(ii) Reduction in the rate of infant mortality, due to better availability of medical facilities and improvement in the medical care of mother and children, from 183 per thousand live births in 1941-50 to 114.8 and 77.5 for rural and urban areas respectively in 1971.

(iii) Reduction in the incidence of communicable diseases due to adoption of improved control measures.

(iv) Increase in the number of hospital beds from 1,13,000 beds in 1946 to 2,77,520.

(v) Extension of medical facilities to the rural areas by the establishment of 5256 Primary Health Centres.