

thirteen Buddhist sites as per archaeological norms in north Andhra Pradesh.

Infant Milk Substitutes

2340. SHRI PRASAD BABURAO TANPURE :
SHRI S.S. OWAIISI :

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether infant milk substitutes feeding bottles and infant food (Regulation of Production, Supply and Distribution) Act (IMS) was formed in 1992 to prohibit infant milk substitutes and feeding bottles to regulate their marketing;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether many companies are exploiting loopholes of this Act;

(d) if so, the number of cases booked against these companies and action taken so far;

(e) whether the Government propose to amend this act to make it more stringent; and

(f) if so, the details thereof and time by which it is likely to be amended?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT AND MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI) : (a) and (b) The Act was formed to provide for the regulation of production, supply and distribution of infant milk substitutes, feeding bottles and infant foods with a view to the protection and promotion of breast feeding and ensuring the proper use of infant foods and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. At present one case against a company is pending in the Court of Metropolitan Magistrate, Delhi.

(e) and (f) The matter is under consideration.

Expansion of NH-8-A

2341. SHRI P.S. GADHAVI : Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have received any proposal from the Gujarat Government to expand National Highway No.8-A from Gandhidham-Mundra-Mandavi-Jakhov-Koteshwar ports;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the time by which it would be expanded; and

(c) the action taken or proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (DR. M. THAMBI DURAI) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) It has been decided by this Ministry to extend National Highway No.8-A from Kandla to Mandvi via Mundra.

(c) Does not arise.

Standard of Higher Education

2342. SHRIMATI LAKSHMI PANABAKA :
SHRI RAMKRISHNA BABA PATIL :

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have assessed the reasons for declining standard in higher education;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether an acute resource crunch, frequent strikes by teachers and students alike and lack of infrastructure have pushed higher education into a bind;

(d) if so, the concrete steps proposed to be taken in this regard;

(e) whether universities are treating UGC as only fund distributing agency;

(f) if so, whether there is an urgent need to define the role of UGC;

(g) if so, the steps taken in this regard;

(h) whether new task force set up to revamp UGC has made some recommendations; and

(i) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken by the Government to keep the standard of higher education high?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT AND MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI) : (a) and (b) The Government and UGC have taken several measures to arrest the declining standard in higher education. Some of the major steps taken in this direction are as follows:-

- Revision of pay scales of colleges and university teachers w.e.f. 1.1.1996. Opportunities provided for training and career advancement for teachers. All India Eligibility Test introduced to attract best talent to the teaching profession.
- Academic staff colleges established for re-orientation of newly appointed university and college teachers.
- 27 Curriculum Development Centres in Sciences and Humanities established to modernise curricula. Model curricula has been prepared for 27 Disciplines in under-graduate and post-graduate courses.
- Financial assistance provided by UGC for improvement of teaching and research under Special Assistance Programmes.
- Inter-University Centres established by UGC to provide front-line facilities and services for advancement of research in the University system.