

that urgent in the sense that you have to act on it tomorrow itself. That is not so.

[Translation]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : I had therefore stated that I will not stop him from expressing this views.

[English]

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE : Sir, there is no such rule that the Minister cannot respond to a Member. He has raised a very important issue. The Minister has replied to it. There is no such restriction that the Minister cannot reply.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Now, Shri Raghubans Prasad Singh to make a statement.

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : There is no revival of Zero Hour now. This is too much. Please listen to him.

14.30 hrs.

STATEMENT BY MINISTER

Sale of Synthetic Milk

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND DAIRYING IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH) : (a) I seek leave of the House to make a statement regarding the reports about sale of synthetic milk which have appeared in newspapers at different times and mention of which was made by some Hon'ble Members in this House.

Sale of adulterated milk is prohibited and is punishable under the provisions of the Preventing Food Adulteration Act (PFA) and the PFA Rules, 1955. The newspaper reports have alleged adulterating of milk, especially in the northern States, by the adding of vegetable fat, urea, chemical detergents, common salt, etc. in what has come to be called synthetic milk.

The Government of India have taken a serious view of these reports. The Ministry of Health and Family Welfare has issued repeated instructions to the State Health Authorities to expand their networks of checks and detect cases of adulteration of milk and resort to prosecuting measures. Consequently the State Health Authorities have intensified their checkings and have launched prosecutions and taken up special drives to detect such adulteration. Central PRA Team also visited the States of Punjab, Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh and Himachal Pradesh where the problem had been alleged to be prevalent to discuss the issue with the PRA implementation authorities of these states.

The Department of Animal Husbandry and Dairying has also asked the Secretaries, Incharge of Dairy

Development Department in all the States Union Territories to be more vigilant in this regard and ensure that the dairy plants in Public, Cooperative and Private Sector do not receive any adulterated/synthetic milk if any such case comes to their notice it should be immediately reported to the State Health Authorities to ensure proper prosecution and destruction of the adulterated milk after following the prescribed procedures. Instruction have also been issued by the Central Registering Authority under the Milk Product Order, 1992 to all registered dairies to strictly adhere to the quality norms and to carry out all tests and prevent entry of synthetic milk into the dairy plants.

The Government convened a conference of State Health Secretaries of northern States on 11th April, 1996 to review the measures taken for preventing use of synthetic milk. The meeting decided to the meeting a training cum workshop was arranged in the National Dairy Institute, Karnal on 11-7-96 for Public Analysts of the State Governments in the matter of detection of synthetic milk.

In Delhi nearly 40% of the total milk supply is effected by the Mother Dairy run by the National Dairy Development Board and the Delhi Milk Scheme (DMS) run by the Department of Animal Husbandry and Dairying. Both these dairies had taken early note of the possibility of synthetic milk being offered for processing and have therefore been specially vigilant about testing of the supply received by these dairies. Well equipped laboratories are in place in the Mother Dairy and the DMS and each consignment of milk received by these dairies is subject to elaborate tests.

I can assure this House that the milk supplied by the DMS and the Mother Dairy is absolutely safe and is without any kind of contamination.

I would like to inform this House that the Government is fully seized of the problem of synthetic milk and have taken several measures to contain the problem. The efforts already initiated would be further intensified and Government is determined to eradicate this menace. I assure the House once again that no efforts will be spared in ensuring the quality of milk that is offered to the consumers in this country.

14.35 hrs.

STATUTORY RESOLUTION RE: DISAPPROVAL OF INDUSTRIAL DISPUTES (AMENDMENT) THIRD ORDINANCE

AND

INDUSTRIAL DISPUTES (AMENDMENT) BILL

[English]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Now, the House will take up item Nos. 13 and 14 together. the time allotted is one hour.