

unable to supply the items, the Hospitals/CGHS invite quotations or make purchases in respect of Dressing Material from Kendriya Bhandar/Super Bazar, and the supplies are subjected to inspection. If any complaint is received, analytical tests are conducted through recognised Laboratories, and appropriate action is taken as warranted.

CGHS has a Standing Committee for checking the quality of supplies vis-a-vis approved samples.

**Ban on Use of Artificial Colour in Food**

\*91. SHRI DILEEP SANGHANI :  
DR. VALLABHBHAI KATHIRIA :

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether DAV Research Society for Health has demanded complete ban on the use of artificial colour in food items;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI DALIT EZHILMALAI) : (a) and (b) DAV Research Society for Health, a Registered Society at Delhi had asked for a ban to be imposed on the use of Artificial Colours in all food items on the ground that these are harmful to human health.

(c) The PFA Rules 1955, permit only those artificial colours which have been accepted as safe by FAO/WHO. Moreover, use of these colours is permitted, only in specified articles of food within prescribed limits.

**Prices of Petrol**

\*92. SHRI D.S. AHIRE :  
SHRI MANIKRAO HODLYA GAVIT :

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the prices of petrol in India are higher than the other developing countries;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the steps taken/proposed to be taken to bring down the prices of petrol;

(d) the estimated production and consumption of petrol in the country during the last three years; and

(e) the total quantity of petrol imported during the said period?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI VAZHAPADY K. RAMAMURTHY) : (a) to (c) The price of Petrol (MS) in India and some of the neighbouring countries are given below :

*Price of Petrol (MS) in the Neighbouring Countries*

(As in April, 98)

Countries	Currency	Price per Litre in Local Currency	Prices in Indian (Rs.) Per Litre
Bangladesh	Taka	21.00	18.37
Sri Lanka	Rupee	50.00	32.23
Thailand	Baht	11.77	12.22
S. Korea	Won	1047.00	31.41
Japan	Yen	94.00	29.11
Phillipines	Peso	11.61	12.13
Malaysia	Ringitt	1.10	11.85
Indonesia	Rupiah	700.00	3.78
India-Delhi	Rupee	22.84	22.84

The price of Petrol in the country is fixed in such a manner to cross subsidise certain other petroleum products. Price of Petrol is required to be kept high so long such cross-subsidisation continues to be a part of the pricing system.

(d) The production and consumption of Petrol (MS) in the country during the last three years were as follows :

Year	Production (MMT)	Consumption (MMT)
1995-96	4.458	4.679
1996-97	4.706	4.955
1997-98 (Prov.)	4.861	5.153

(e) The total quantities of petrol (MS) imported during the last three years were as follows :

Year	MMT
1995-96	0.435
1996-97	0.449
1997-98 (Prov.)	0.358