

Use of Preservatives and Colours in Food

201. SHRI P.R. KUMARMANGALAM: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that many preservatives and colouring matters which are added during food processing are toxic in nature;

(b) if so, the list of those preservatives and colouring matters which have been found to be toxic and have been banned;

(c) whether any guidelines have been issued to obtain prior clearance before usage of these preservatives and colouring matters?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI NILMANI ROUTRAY): (a) to (c). Prevention of Food Adulteration Act, 1954 and Rules 1955 prescribe the list of permitted preservatives and colours to be used in specific food items upto a specified limit. Use of these permitted preservatives and colours upto the prescribed limit is safe from health point of view.

Use of any other chemical as preservative and colouring matter other than those permitted under Prevention of Food Adulteration Rules, 1955, is prohibited. Moreover, on the basis of advice of experts, the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare has decided to ban three synthetic colours out of eleven synthetic colours permitted at present, namely "Amaranth", Fast Red 'E' and Green 'S'.

Collaboration with Cuba to Manufacture Medicine for Leucoderma

202. SHRI P.R. KUMARAMANGALAM: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a plant to manufacture medicine for treating Leucoderma is proposed to be set up in collaboration with Cuba;

(b) if so, whether scientists at R&D laboratories such as CDRI, Lucknow had in the past worked on the same cure and found this to be unsatisfactory; and

(c) if so, whether Government have carried out any controlled clinical trials to test the efficacy of this 'Cure' before going in for foreign collaboration?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI NILMANI ROUTRAY): (a) to (c). No, Sir. However a protocol signed with Cuba, inter alia, envisaged collaborations in the field of traditional Medicines/Medicinal plants (the area of collaboration being Leucoderma). The Central Council for Research in Unani Medicine is the Indian Agency identified for the purpose.

Amendment to Contract Labour (Regulation and Abolition) Act

203. SHRI P.R. KUMARAMANGALAM: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Contract Labour (Regulation and abolition) Act, 1970 provides for abolition but not for regularisation or absorption of the contract labour and this situation renders many unemployed; and

(b) if so, the remedial measures proposed to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND WELFARE (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN): (a) Yes, Sir. The Contract Labour (Regulation and Abolition) Act, 1970, is meant to regulate the employment of contract labour in certain establishments and to provide for its abolition in certain circumstances and for

matters connected therewith.

(b) At present, no amendment of this Act is under consideration.

More Funds for Teesta Barrage Project

204. SHRI CHITTA BASU: Will the Minister of WATER, RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether West Bengal Government has approached Union Government for allocation of more funds for the speedy and early implementation of the Teesta Barrage Project; and

(b) if so, the reaction of Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI MANUBHAI KOTADIA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Chief Minister has been replied advising him to send a formal proposal to the Planning Commission.

Closed Jute Mills

205. SHRI CHITTA BASU: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Jute Mills closed till date and employees and workers rendered jobless as a result thereof; and

(b) the steps taken or contemplated to re-open the closed and locked out jute mills?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES AND MINISTER OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI SHARAD YADAV): (a) and (b). The number of Jute Mills presently closed is 9, affecting a total of 21680 workers.

The reopening of closed and locked out

mills is the subject of the concerned State Government. However the Central Government have initiated a number of measures for the modernisation and diversification of the Jute Industry. These steps have been initiated to review demand in the domestic market and for exports. Some of the measures are as follows:

1. Establishment of the Jute Modernisation Fund for the modernisation and rehabilitation of jute mills.
2. Establishment of the Jute Special Development Fund for improving jute agriculture, research and development for diversification, schemes for the benefit of workers improvement of infrastructural facilities like construction of godowns etc.
3. Enactment of the Jute Packaging Materials (Compulsory use in Packaging Commodities) Act 1987 for compulsory packing of certain commodities in jute packaging materials.
4. Exemption from Customs Duty on certain specified items of jute machinery/accessories for modernisation.
5. Enhanced cash Compensatory Support for export of jute goods.
6. Introduction of External Market Assistance Scheme for the export of jute diversified products.
7. Introduction of an Internal Market Assistance Scheme for the introduction of jute diversified products in the internal market.
8. A major thrust to diversify into