

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI NILAMANI ROUTRAY): (a) to (c) As per information made available by State/Union Territories during the years 1986 to 1988 a total of 255 samples of pan masala have been analysed out of which 93 samples have been found adulterated/misbranded on account of presence of synthetic colours, saccharin, aluminium leaves and grit.

#### **Use of Mercury in Soap**

1410. SHRI P.R. KUMARAMANGLAM: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that addition of mercury is being made in soaps for help in whitening of skin colour under the guise of medicinal products;

(b) if so, the name of such soaps and the name of manufacturers in India;

(c) whether Government are aware that such soaps are banned in many countries as these produce skin and other ailments; and if so, the details thereof; and

(d) whether Government propose to ban use of mercury in soaps?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI NILAMANI ROUTRAY): (a) No complaints have come to the notice.

(b) Question does not arise.

(c) and (d). Based on the information that use of mercury compounds in cosmetics preparations is banned in many countries, Rule 45 (D) under Part XIV of the Drugs and Cosmetics Act, 1945 was inserted under

Notification No. GSR 1074 dated 19.8.1978, prohibiting the use of mercury compounds in the manufacture of cosmetics.

#### **New Edible Oils Policy**

1411. SHRI RAM SAJIWAN: Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to evolve a new edible oils policy; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES ((SHRI NATHU RAM MIRDHA): (a) and (b). Edible oil policy is reviewed from time to time, keeping in view various factors such as demand and availability of the indigenous edible oils in the country, the need to bridge the gap between demand and supply through imports etc. The edible oil policy aims to promote self reliance in the matter of oilseeds and oils over a period of time through a policy of ensuring adequate price to the farmer and reasonable price to the consumer. This is sought to be accomplished mainly through a policy of price support and market intervention operation.

#### **ESI Benefits to Workers**

1412. SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether the workers are deprived of certain benefits under the ESI scheme during the period when they are on strike;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government propose to rescind this provision in the ESI/Act, 1948; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?