

Food Processing Industries in Punjab

1534. SHRI KAMAL CHAUDHRY: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Union Government have any proposal to set up more food processing units in Punjab;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which such units are likely to be set up?

THE MINISTER FOR TEXTILES AND FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI SHARAD YADAV): (a) The Ministry of Food Processing Industries does not propose to set up any food processing unit in the central public sector in Punjab.

(b) and (c). Do not arise.

Financial Assistance for Construction of Houses in Punjab

1535. SHRI KAMAL CHAUDHRY: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the total amount sanctioned by Un-

ion Government to Punjab for the construction of houses for the poorer sections of the society during the years 1987, 1988 and 1989, year-wise;

(b) the number and details of houses constructed till date under the various schemes;

(c) whether the targets have been achieved;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (a) to (e). Housing is a State subject and the State Govts./ UT Administrations formulate and implement the schemes as per their priorities. The Union Government initiated the scheme of Indira Awas Yojana in 1985 to provide shelter to Scheduled Castes/Scheduled Tribes and freed bonded labourers in rural areas through financial assistance to state rural development agencies.

As per available information the details about the allocations made under the Indira Awas Yojana for the period 1987-88 to 1989-90 and houses constructed under this Yojana are as under:

	1987-88	1988-89	1989-90 (upto 30.9.89)
Allocation (Rs. in lakhs)	123.00	123.00	96.52
Houses constructed (units)	1366	Not reported	1098

Direction of Supreme Court to Ban Certain Drugs

1536. SHRI P.C. THOMAS: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WEL-

FARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Supreme Court directed in its judgement in 1987, as reported in All India Reporter (AIR) 1987, that certain drugs

should be banned by Union Government; and

(b) if so the names of those drugs and the action taken by Union Government to ban those drugs?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI NILAMANI ROUTRAY) (a) No, Sir. The Hon'ble Supreme Court had in its judgement in a Civil Appeal given a direction to the Drugs Controller (India) to hold public inquiries regarding the advisability of banning fixed dose formulations of Oestrogen and Progesterone.

(b) Based on the recommendations of the Drugs Controller (India) and other experts, the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare had issued a notification, in exercise of powers given by Section 26-A of the Drugs and Cosmetics Act, 1940, banning all fixed dose combinations of Oestrogen and Progesterone except those which are used as oral contraceptives.

Pension to Agriculturists

1537. SHRI P. C. THOMAS: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a proposal to bring forward a legislation to provide pension and other benefits to agricultural labourers;

(b) if so, whether Government propose to give financial assistance to the States for implementing such schemes; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND WELFARE (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN): (a) There is no such proposal.

(b) and (c). Does not arise.

Diagnostic Kit for Early Detection of Filaria

1538. SHRI PRATAPRAO B. BHOSALE: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether diagnostic kit for early detection of filaria has been developed indigenously;

(b) whether its trials have been found successful.

(c) whether Government propose to make this kit available with local chemists of the country to make it available to general public; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and if not the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI NILAMANI ROUTRAY): (a) Yes, Two Diagnostic kits for detection of filariasis have been developed indigenously. One of the kits has been developed by the Central Drug Research Institute, Lucknow. The other kit has been developed by Cadilla Laboratories (Pvt.) Ltd., Ahmedabad and Mahatma Gandhi Institute of Medical Sciences, Wardha.

(b) According to the manufacturers, the trials have been found to be successful.

(c) and (d). This will depend on the effectiveness of the kit being established after independent evaluation by a recognised agency with special reference to distinguish the present infection from the past infections, to detect persons harbouring filarial parasite in the blood (microfilaria carriers) and to rule out the possibility of cross reaction with other helminthic infections and finally to find out the feasibility of its practical use.