

(a) whether 80 per cent of blindness in the country is preventable and curable;

(b) the various steps taken by Government to prevent blindness among people specially among children; and

(c) what guidelines Union Government propose to issue to parents of such children?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY AND MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ARIF MOHAMMAD KHAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Government has taken up many steps to prevent and control blindness amongst people including children also; health education on eye care and consumption of foods rich in vit. A; distribution of intensive doses of vitamin—A deficiency; supply of anti-biotic eye ointment to control trachoma; cataract operations to restore vision; eye-banking and corneal transplants.

(c) The messages covered under health education are largely directed for the parents, school teachers and medical and para-medical staff: general eye hygiene; consumption of green leafy vegetables and other foods rich in Vit.—A; utilisation of the facilities under the programme of prophylaxis against blindness due to Vit.—A deficiency.

Dhara Groundnut Oil

8941. **SHRIMATI SUBHASHINI ALI:** Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that NDDB is marketing Dhara Groundnut oil in 1 litre tetrapacks;

(b) whether this violates the provision of Weight and Measures Act; and

(c) if so, whether NDDB has been challenged in any State/UT for this violation

and if not, the reasons thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI RAM PUJAN PATEL): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c). According to the Standards of Weights and Measures (Packaged Commodities) Rules, 1977, edible oils are to be packed in terms of weight only. However, on a request received from the NDDB that for technical reasons, it is not possible for them to pre-pack edible oils in tetrapack in the standard quantities specified in the Rules, they have been permitted to pre-pack edible oils in tetrapack by volume in certain specified quantities. The matter is being reconsidered.

Taking over of Voltas and Punjab Agro Industries Corporation for Food Processing Plant

8942. **SHRI KHEMCHANDBHAI SOMABHAI CHAVDA:**
SHRI MANIK SANYAL:
SHRI M.S. PAL:
SHRI K. PRADHANI:

Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the fruit processing plant of Voltas and Punjab Agro Industries Corporation in Abohar has been declared sick;

(b) whether it has been taken over by Pepsi Foods; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER FOR TEXTILES AND MINISTER OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI SHARAD YADAV): (a) to (c). The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.