

the Table of the House. Don't worry, it is not a secret information.

[*Translation*]

SHRI BANWARI LAL PUROHIT : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the hon. Minister is very kind hearted and this question relates to women. A decision has to be taken about female attendants. As a decision has not been taken so far, so it should be taken early...(*Interruptions*)

KUMARI SAROJ KHAPARDE : Mr. Speaker, Sir, in regard to the question asked by the hon. Member, I want to inform him that our Ministry has received similar demands from several States. As I have stated just now, Government is making all out efforts. We will endeavour to increase the amount considerably but a definite decision has not been taken so far in this regard. I cannot say as to how long will it take to do so but I will try to ensure that it is done as early as possible.

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE : I want to know as to how far is it justified to pay a meagre amount of Rs. 50 to female attendants? The Minimum Honorary and Minimum Wages Acts have been passed by this House. When a law is there in this regard, then why are woman attendants paid such a small honorarium? Will you increase this amount at the earliest?

MR. SPEAKER : She has already replied to this point.

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MADHAV RAO SCINDIA) : It is a dispute between two damsels.

KUMARI SAROJ KHAPARDE : I agree with the hon. Lady Member. We also have some limitations. It is an account of financial constraints that we are not able to do it. We will make every efforts to ensure that they get proper honorarium.

SHRI BALKAVI BAIRAGI : Hon. Shri Madhav Rao has said that it is a dispute between two damsels. Then how is a Prince sitting between them?

MR. SPEAKER : He has risen above the status of a Prince.

[*English*]

SHRI V. SOBHANADREESWARA RAO : Sir, though the hon. Minister is expressing her sympathy to these part-time female attendants, she is linking this with the need to enhance honorarium of voluntary workers in the health sector. I would like to know from the hon. Minister while this Government is spending several crores of rupees on a few trips of the Prime Minister to foreign countries, why does the Government not increase the honorarium... (*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

MR. SPEAKER : Why are you doing like this? Please sit down.

(*Interruptions*)*

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER : It is an irrelevant question. It is absolutely irrelevant. Nothing will go on record. Next question—Shri Ram Dhan.

[*Translation*]

Import of Edible Oils

*349. **SHRI RAM DHAN :** Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state :

(a) whether there has been a constant increase in the quantity of imported edible oil to meet the indigenous demand of the edible oils during the last three years;

(b) whether Government propose to reduce the import of edible oil in current year in view of the increased prices of the edible oil in the international market; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

[*English*]

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI D.L. BAITHA) : (a) No, Sir. There has not been a constant increase in the import of Edible Oils during the last three oil years which were as under :—

*Not recorded.

Oil Year (Nov.-Oct.)	Quantity (In lakh MTs)
1984-85	13.68
1985-86	11.79
1986-87	14.97

(b) and (c). The quantity of Edible Oils imported each year is a subject of constant review depending on factors like the availability and prices of indigenous oils in the open market, prices of edible oils in the international market, provision of foreign exchange for import of edible oils and other related factors.

[*Translation*]

SHRI RAM DHAN : Mr. Speaker, Sir, it is quite clear from the reply given by the hon. Minister that 15 lakh tonnes of edible Oils was imported in the year 1984-85 and in spite of that, hon. Minister feels that the import of edible oils is not increasing. In his reply he has stated "No, Sir", but it has been mentioned in the statement that import is increasing. This is the written statement of the hon. Minister.

There is a proposal for importing 20 lakh tonnes of edible oils during 1987-88 with an investment of Rs. 1000 crore. During the year 1977-78, 50000 tonnes of edible oils were made available to the public distribution system whereas, 12 lakh tonnes of edible oils have been made available for this purpose during the year 1987-88. This public distribution system is operating only in cities and edible oil is not distributed through this public distribution system in villages and tribal areas where our Adivasi brethren live. In the name of distribution through the public distribution system edible oil is sold out in the black market. Similarly, during the year 1986-87 and 1987-88, 4 lakh 80 thousand and 6 lakh tonnes of edible oil respectively was given to the oil processing industries on subsidised rates for refining purposes. Fifty per cent of the oil is given to these industries at the rate of Rs. 15 thousand per tonne and 30 per cent of it is given at the rate of Rs. 19 thousand per tonne.

MR. SPEAKER : Ask the question.

SHRI RAM DHAN : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I was asking the question. I was just exposing them. The production of edible oils in 1977-78 was to the tune of 101 lakh tonnes and in the year 1987-88 it was 105 lakh tonnes. But in spite of so much production, the edible oils worth 1000 crore rupees are being imported and instead of reducing the import, it is being increased every year and the industrialists are being benefited thereby. What measures the Government purpose to take to reduce the import of edible oils ?

SHRI D. L. BAITHA : Mr. Speaker, Sir, perhaps the hon. Member has not listened to my reply properly. I have stated that 13.68 lakh tonnes of edible oil was imported in 1984-85 and 11.79 lakh tonnes in 1985-86 which shows a decline and again in 1986-87 14.97 lakh tonnes of edible oil was imported. (*Interruptions*)

This is not true that we go on increasing the import. The quantity of edible oil to be imported is determined on the basis of the production and availability of oilseeds in our country and the requirement of the people. It is not a fact that we are determined to import the oil irrespective of our requirements. In this connection, I can give you details if you want. In 1984-85 three lakh ninety thousand tonnes of Soyabean oil was imported and from November, 1985 to October, 1986, two lakh two thousand metric tonnes was imported. Similarly, in November, 1986-87, three lakh tonnes of edible oil was imported. You might have noticed that the imported of Soyabean oil is declining. This is the position in regard to the Soyabean Oil. Similarly, during the said period, the import of Palm Oil was 29 thousand tonnes and again from November, 1985 to October, 1986 it was two lakh and 32 thousand tonnes. In 1986-87 the import of Palm Oil was one lakh 55 thousand tonnes and upto 17th August in 1987-88, it was 94 thousand and 500 tonnes. From these figures it is evident that the Government have not increased the import but it has tried to reduce it.

SHRI RAM DHAN : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Government is going to import edible oils worth 1000 crore rupees and the hon. Minister claims that import is not increasing. There is a great difference between the

words and deeds of this Government. I would like to ask the hon. Minister whether the Government can take such measures as to import the oilseeds instead of the edible oils and to get the crushing of oil done indigenously so that the people may get employment also ?

SHRI D.L. BAITHA : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Government have considered this aspect also but this does not appear to be feasible. The different types of edible oils are used in different parts of our country. At several places, mustard oil is used and at other places, the groundnut oil is used and at some other places, some other type of oil is consumed. Firstly, because of the different types of edible oils being used in our country, it will be very difficult to import the oilseeds for all these oils. Secondly, for importing the edible oils, we use ships and if we continue to import oil seeds by this means of transport, more ships will be required for this purpose which will cost more. Thirdly, necessary arrangements will have to be made for the quarantine test of seeds to find out whether the seeds are pest-infested or not. In view of all these things, we are not importing the oilseeds.

[*English*]

SHRI ANANDA GAJAPATHI RAJU : Sir, I wanted to ask the same question which he was asking, namely, the import of oilseeds. The hon. Minister said that oil seeds import would be costly and bulky. But what is the cost for bringing oilseeds into India and making it into oil and exporting the oil cake to different African countries like how we are exporting the raw cashew ? Why cannot we do in the same way and what is the difficulty in doing the same ?

[*Translation*]

SHRI D.L. BAITHA : Mr. Speaker, Sir, as I have earlier stated, this aspect was got investigated by an Expert committee. I have also mentioned about the difficulties in doing this.

MR. SPEAKER : Its reply would be the same.

[*English*]

SHRI E. AYYAPU REDDY : Are there any specific schemes which have been identi-

fied and which are being implemented for augmenting the growth of edible oilseeds in India and whether certain areas have been specified, located and identified which are qualitatively very good and excellent for the purpose of growing edible oilseeds like groundnut ? If they are given sufficient irrigation, they will be able to give double production. Are there any schemes which have been identified for the purpose of giving incentives to the farmers who undertake the growth of these edible oilseeds ?

[*Translation*]

SHRI D.L. BAITHA : Mr. Speaker, Sir, efforts are being made in this regard by the Ministry of Agriculture and a special campaign has been started for it under the supervision of Hon. Prime Minister so that the production of oilseeds may be increased to the optimum to meet the requirements of the country.

SHRIMATI PREMALABAI CHAVAN : Mr. Speaker, Sir, whether the hon. Minister is aware of the fact that earlier also one such scheme was formulated here, under which the sunflower seed was imported from Russia and made available to the people of the country. It is altogether a different thing that the quality of that seed was not good, and it is being investigated. I hope that in future, if the oilseeds are made available to the States of Maharashtra and Gujarat, the progress will be made more speedily and a lesser quantity shall have to be imported from abroad and perhaps even that won't be required.

SHRI D.L. BAITHA : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the hon. lady Member may please give a separate notice for this question because it relates to the Ministry of Agriculture.

[*English*]

Vacant Posts at C.L.W.

*352. **SHRI PURNA CHANDRA MALIK :** Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of posts lying vacant in the Chittaranjan Locomotive Works and in which categories;