

[Translation]

SHRIMATI MOHSINA KIDWAI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, inspections are carried out at regular intervals. As hon. Shri Dighe may be aware that during the inspection of this colony in 1985, the officers on duty were man-handled and even beaten up. Thereafter, the C.B.I. people accompanied the Government inspection team. In 1987, 11 inspections were carried out, and 6 people were found to have subletted their quarters. All these quarters were got vacated. 99 inspection were held in 1988 in which 46 cases of subletting came to light. Out of these, 21 occupants have vacated the quarters. Action for physical eviction is being taken for the rest of them.

[English]

#### Developmental Technology for Making Natural Food Colour

\*272. DR. B.L. SHAILESH: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to refer to the reply given on 3 December, 1987 to Unstarred Question No. 4125 regarding fool proof method to prevent use of cheap flavours and state:

(a) whether Scientists at the Central Food and Technological Research Institute have developed technology for making natural food colours and the process details for the manufacture of these colours have been standardised;

(b) whether there has been increasing consumer concern about the toxicity and the risks involved in using synthetic colours in food articles;

(c) whether Government propose to undertake an expert study on the effect of the increasing use of these synthetic flavours and colours; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (KUMARI SAROJ KHAPARDE):

(a) As per the information available from Central Food Technological Research Institute, Mysore, the scientists at that Institution have developed the technology for manufacture of natural colours kokum red and safflower yellow and these have been standardised.

(b) to (d). The Prevention of Food Adulteration Rules, 1955 permit only those colours which have been found to be safe. The list of food items in which these colours could be used and maximum limit of synthetic food colours are specified in the rules. The Rules also provide a list of prohibited flavours. The States/U.Ts. who implement the provisions of the Prevention of Food Adulteration Act have been advised time and again to keep a vigil on indiscriminate use of chemicals in food, including synthetic colours and flavours.

[Translation]

DR. B.L. SHAILESH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, my question is very important as it relates to the health of the people. As the reply given by the Ministry of Health has been very evasive, I want to know from the hon. Minister of Health through you as to why his department is ineffective in exercising necessary control over the use of synthetic colours? Today, the people are suffering from different types of cancer due to the use of spurious synthetic colours. I have a book entitled 'Dangers in the Bush! This book has been published by the International Consumers' Association of Malaysia and it says that green and orange colours are responsible for the increase in the incidence of cancer and that is why their use has been banned in U.S.A., Canada and U.S.S.R. But in our country, these colours are used in soft

drinks, squashes, ice cream, chilli powder and even in sweets. It is proving to be fatal for the human body. The hon. Minister, is a very competent person and is aware of the dangers of using synthetic colours. I would request him that their use should be banned at the earliest and publicity to this effect should be given on Radio and T.V. so that our children could be saved from such health hazards.

MR. SPEAKER: Why does he not ask the hon. Minister whether food without colours cannot be eaten?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI MOTI LAL VORA): Mr. Speaker, Sir, as regards the doubts which have been raised by the hon. Member, Government is fully vigilant about it and in this connection 2 colours have been standardised by Food Technological Research Institute, Mysore and notification to this effect is also being issued. The colour which are not prohibited have been duly notified and Dr. Shailesh is well aware of it, but as regards ice-cream and other good-items, the use of only coal-tar colours is permitted and there is a long list of these colours. If the hon. Member wants to know the details of the colours used in different food items like ice-cream, dairy products etc, I will provide the necessary information. As regards, the doubts expressed about the use of synthetic colours in eatables, we are fully vigilant about it and in this connection I want to inform that if such complaints come even after the manufacture of natural colours, Kokum red and safflower yellow which have been developed by the Central Food Technological Research Institute, Mysore, they will be taken care of. In this connection, the Department has issued definite directions and has taken due action wherever cases of adulteration have come to its notice. Raids have been conducted at several places. Year-wise details from 1981 to 1987, in this regard are available with me

and I shall lay this information on the Table of the House for the benefit of the hon. Member...*(Interruptions)*

DR. B.L. SHAILESH: I want to know from the hon. Minister of Health in what proportion were the synthetic colours being used in 1970 and what is the position today? What is the total consumption of colours in the country at present? How many companies are engaged in the manufacture of these colours which cause fatal diseases? How many of them are multi-national and what are their equities?

SHRI MOTI LAL VORA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the hon. member want to know the proportion in which these colours are mixed with other substances. The maximum limit in this respect is 200 mg. The hon. Member also wanted know as to which multinational companies are manufacturing these colours. The relevant details are not available with me right now. I shall furnish them later.

*[English]*

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY: Sir, the reply of the Minister was very formal in that he indicated to us the various legal provisions that are there to deal with the problem. Members are not complaining about the inadequacy of laws, but about the inadequate implementation of laws. Therefore, would the Minister have a survey conducted throughout the country so that we have an idea about the use of colours in food articles?

SHRI MOTI LAL VORA: A countrywide survey has been conducted and samples in the year 1987 were collected and many of them have been found somewhat injurious also and complaints have been made, as the hon. members said. So, the Government is completely in the know of things. *(Interruptions)* It showed that we had collected the

samples from various places. This is a concurrent subject, the State Governments also are to cooperate in this matter. We have got our own machinery here in the Government of India.

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY: I am talking about Survey Team.

SHRI MOTILAL VORA: Our machinery is going to various places in the country.

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY: How many people have been convicted?

SHRI MOTILAL VORA: I will just let you know. In the year, the number of samples examined were 1,33,242, the number of samples found adulterated were 19,050 the percentage of adulteration was 14.2, and the number of prosecutions launched were 15,801. The number of conviction was 4586; number of cases acquitted and discharged was 4326. Number of cases pending in the court is 28364. This is for one year. I have got the list for all the years. If the Member want to know, I can just tell him all these things.

[Translation]

DR. CHANDRA SHEKHAR TRIPATHI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I cannot challenge the capability, wisdom and experience of the hon. Minister but I have a very straight question to ask and it is this, that at the consumer level it is very difficult to know whether a certain food item contains permitted or consumable colours or not because no such mechanism exists with the Government nor can it be developed for this purpose. As the main cause of adulteration in food stuffs and in cereals in the entire country is the use of synthetic colours, then why is the Government spending crores of rupees for developing safe colours? Why does not the Government impose a total ban on its use instead?

MR. SPEAKER: What is the harm if we

take food without colour? When the whole House is suggesting it, why don't you ban it?

[English]

This is a collective suggestion from the House that there will be no ill-effect if we take food without colour. You bring a Bill according to that.

(Interruptions)

SHRI MOTI LAL VORA: Yes.

SHRI ATAUR RAHMAN: It will go down the history.

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY: What is the reply of the Minister?

MR. SPEAKER: He says, "Yes". I have conveyed to him the collective will of the House that a new Bill should be brought in.

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY: He has not replied.

SHRI MOTI LAL VORA: I have said, "Yes". As to what the hon. Speaker has said, how can I say, no to that?

MR. SPEAKER: I am not for myself. I am the mouth-piece of this House..

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY: He represents and reflects our collective will.

#### Amount Spent on Modernisation of Textile

\*273. SHRI A. CHARLES: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) the total amount earmarked for the modernisation of textile industry in the Seventh Five Year Plan;

(b) the amount spent so far;