

Health Hazard posed by Dye and Dye Intermediate Units

*491. SHRI K. MALLANNA:
SHRI N.E. HORO :

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the Monopolies and Restrictive Trade Practices Commission has requested the Government to take note of the serious health hazards posed by the 'almost uncontrolled proliferation' of dye and dye-intermediate units;

(b) whether Government are aware that the country is 'littered' with these units, haphazardly grown, where workers are exposed to grave risks to their health from toxic substances without proper occupational safety measures ; and

(c) if so, the reaction of Government in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) In its report, submitted in June, 1981 on the proposal of M/s. Amar Dyechem Ltd. for the manufacture of dye intermediates at Vapi, Gujarat, the Monopolies and Restrictive Trade Practices Commission has made these remarks. The Commission has gone on to refer to the need to enforce rigorously the existing legislative measures aimed at containing toxic effects and damage to ecology caused by units engaged in the manufacture of dyes and dye intermediates. The report has also suggested that the Government should consider enactment of a law on the lines of the Toxic Substances Control Act, 1976, of the United States of America.

(c) A decision on the suggestions made by the Monopolies and Restrictive Trade Practices Commission in

regard to legislative measures, will be taken keeping all relevant aspects in view.

By its very nature, the production of dyes and dye intermediates involves discharge of pollutants, particularly liquid effluents. It is necessary to treat the effluents suitably so as to prevent pollution. Water pollution is regulated under the Water (Prevention & Control of Pollution) Act, 1974. Air pollution is regulated under the Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1981. These are administered by the State Governments concerned. The State Governments are being requested to enforce the provisions of these Acts rigorously.

Indo-Nepal talks on Exploitation of Water Resources

*492. SHRI G. NARSIMHA REDDY : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that Nepal has agreed to have joint ventures with India for exploitation of water resources between the two countries as a result of talks held between the two countries.

(b) if so, whether any positive proposal for creating reservoirs in Nepal for rivers which cause floods in India was discussed ;

(c) whether the question of construction of Hydel Projects with joint endeavour also figured in the talks; and

(d) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI P. V. NARASIMHA RAO) : (a) Yes Sir. India and Nepal have agreed to joint investigations of certain river valley projects.