

(b) if so, the details thereof ?

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

(b) The Government of India have approved the establishment of leprosy rehabilitation promotion units in Leprosy endemic States/UTs under the 100% Centrally assisted National Leprosy Eradication Programme. During the Sixth Five Year Plan period, 15 such units are proposed to be established in the various Leprosy endemic States. The Units will provide surgical, Prosthetic and Occupational therapy facilities.

Payment of Gratification by Gangmen

*435. SHRI MANGAL RAM PREMI : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are aware of the exploitation of the gangmen by the officials of the Engineering Department of the Railways throughout the country by taking illegal grafts both at the time of initial recruitment and subsequently on fixed monthly basis ;

(b) if so, what measures are proposed to be taken by the Government to stop the exploitation of poor gangmen ; and

(c) if not, whether Government would hold an impartial inquiry into the matter to come to the right conclusion for an appropriate action ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C.K. JAFFER SHARIEF) : (a) There is no exploitation of the gangmen, though a few isolated instances of complaints have come to notice.

(b) Besides the in-built system of checks already provided in the Department, the gangmen can also bring such cases to the notice of the Engineering Department, Personnel Department and the senior officers, either on their own or through the recognised trade union to which they may belong.

(c) In view of answer to (b), the question does not arise.

घी में चर्बी की मिलावट

*435-क. श्री राम जेठमलानी : क्या स्वास्थ्य और परिवार कल्याण मंत्री निम्नलिखित जानकारी दक्षिण वाला विवरण सभा पटल पर रखने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या यह सच है कि खाद्य अपमिश्रण निवारण अधिनियम 1954 तथा वनस्पति तेल उत्पादन नियंत्रण आदेश 1947 के उपबन्धों के अंतर्गत घी में किसी भी प्रकार की चर्बी की मिलावट पर प्रतिबन्ध है ;

(ख) यदि हां, तो गत तीन वर्षों के दौरान (वर्ष वार) घी में चर्बी की मिलावट किये जाने के कितने मामले पकड़े गये ; और

(ग) इनसे पहले के तीन वर्षों अर्थात् वर्ष 1977-1980 से संबंधित तुलानारमक आंकड़े क्या हैं ?

स्वास्थ्य और परिवार कल्याण मंत्री (श्री बी० शंकरानन्द) : (क) खाद्य अपमिश्रण निवारण अधिनियम के नियम 44 (ग) के अंतर्गत घी में चर्बी या किसी प्रकार के वनस्पति बसा की मिलावट पर विशेष रूप से प्रतिबन्ध लगाया गया है। वनस्पति तेल उत्पाद नियंत्रण आदेश, 1947 के अंतर्गत घी नहीं आता है।

(ख) और (ग) पिछले तीन वर्षों अर्थात् वर्ष 1977-80 के दौरान किसी राज्य/केन्द्र शासित प्रदेश से घी में चर्बी की मिलावट करने की सूचना नहीं मिली है।

Learning in Mother Tongue

*437. SHRI N. DENNIS : Will the Minister of EDUCATION AND CULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are aware of the difficulties experienced by linguistic

minorities due to the lack of facilities provided for their learning in mother tongue ; and

(b) what concrete steps Government would take for the removal of their difficulties ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRIES OF EDUCATION AND CULTURE AND SOCIAL WELFARE (SHRIMATI SHEILA KAUL) : (a) The linguistic minorities have been provided safeguards under the Constitution as well as those agreed to at the national level for primary and secondary stages of education. Majority of the State Governments, who are concerned with the provision of facilities for instruction through the mother-tongue have provided the requisite facilities.

(b) The State Governments, which have not provided the facilities so far, are urged to take requisite steps to provide the facilities and to remove the difficulties experienced by the linguistic minorities.

Speedy Issuance of Passports

*439. SHRI K.A. SWAMI : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) what are the reasons for not making Passports available on a quicker schedule than is presently the case ;

(b) whether the Government has any machinery to monitor the functioning of various Passport Offices ;

(c) the details of measures being contemplated to make passports available without the present delays ;

(d) what are the measures taken to ensure that corruption, caused by artificial delays in issuing passports, is reduced and removed ; and

(e) the number of passport applications presently pending in Andhra Pradesh ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI A.A. RAHIM) : (a) to (c). Passports

are being issued in the normal course within a reasonable period of about six weeks. There is a continuous monitoring of the performance of the Passport Offices by the External Affairs Ministry in New Delhi. Measures like the introduction of new passport booklets, passport fee stamps have been introduced. Instant scrutiny of passport applications is arranged in Passport Offices to make up deficiencies, if any. Additional staff have been provided, where necessary. Production of passport booklets has been increased, the distribution methods streamlined and passport booklets banks have been established to take care of any contingencies. Clearance Cells also function to render extra assistance where needed.

(d) No cases of artificial delay have come to notice. All Passport Offices have been asked to display information regarding the dates up to which passport applications are processed and passports granted. Mass-media are used to educate the general public directly in matters of issue of passports.

(e) The number of passport applications pending in Passport Office, Hyderabad in Andhra Pradesh is 13,286 as on 1.11.1983.

नौवहन उद्योग में आर्थिक संकट

*440. श्रीमती प्रमिला इंडवते :

श्री आर० पी० गायकवाड :

क्या नौवहन और परिवहन मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या यह सच है कि देश में नौवहन उद्योग आजकल आर्थिक संकट से गुजर रहा है ;

(ख) यदि हाँ, तो क्या इस उद्योग में लगी हुई कतिपय कम्पनियों ने इस आर्थिक संकट पर काबू पाने के लिए कुछ उपाय सुझाये हैं, और

(ग) यदि हाँ, तो इस पर सरकार की क्या प्रतिक्रिया है ?

नौवहन और परिवहन मंत्री (श्री के० विजय भास्कर रेड्डी) : (क) जी, हाँ ।