

three months as they do not fall under the scope of Industrial Disputes Act, 1947; and

(b) if so, whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration to bring an amendment in this regard for extending the benefit to the female workers?

**THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI RAGHUNATHA REDDY) :** (a) and (b) The grant of maternity benefits to women industrial workers is governed by the provisions in the Maternity Benefit Act, 1961 or the Employee's State Insurance Act, 1948, as the case may be, and not by the Industrial Disputes Act, 1947. The maximum period of benefit under the Maternity Benefit Act, as also the Employees State Insurance Act, is 12 weeks.

Women employees in chemical and pharmaceutical industries, covered under the Employees' State Insurance Act, 1948, who are in receipt of wages exceeding Rs. 500/- per month are, however, not entitled to any maternity benefit, as the coverage under the Act is restricted to those drawing wages not exceeding Rs. 500/- per month. An amending Bill has been introduced in the Rajya Sabha on 22-3-1975, with a view to raising the wage limit for coverage under the Act from Rs. 500/- to Rs. 1,000/-.

#### Increase in Polio Cases

\*689. **SHRI PRABODH CHANDRA :** Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY PLANNING be pleased to state :

(a) whether Polio cases are on the increase in the country, particularly in Bombay; and

(b) if so, the remedial measures taken therefor?

**THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY PLANNING (DR. KARAN SINGH) :** (a) While there has been an overall decline in polio cases in the country during 1974 as compared to 1973, there has been a slight increase in the Polio cases during that period in Bombay.

(b) The following measures are being taken for the control of Polio :

1. Facilities for immunisation against Poliomyelitis exist in most of the hospi-

tals/dispensaries in the country where paediatric services are available.

2. So far as Bombay is concerned, the Bombay Municipal Corporation provides free immunisation on voluntary basis. Most of the cases are given indoor treatment. As it is generally a disease of children below 10 years of age, they are protected through immunisation. Sufficient stock of Polio vaccine is kept at the Municipal Medical Institutions for the purpose.

3. All possible steps are taken for speedy removal of garbage to prevent breeding of flies. Concentrated drive is launched against insanitary premises and hawkers who expose food to dust and flies. All the food found unfit for human consumption is seized and destroyed. Anti-fly measures are intensified. People are educated through mass media about the preventive measures and the facilities for immunisation. Polio vaccine is being administered to all municipal school children.

#### इन्दौर की औषध कम्पनियों को दिये गये साइलेंस

\*696. **डा० लक्ष्मीनारायण पांडे :** क्या वाणिज्य मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या सरकार को इस बात की जानकारी है कि इन्दौर (मध्य प्रदेश) में ऐसी अनेक औषध कम्पनियों को गत तीन वर्षों में आयात साइलेंस दिये गए जो कम्पनियां अस्तित्व में ही नहीं थीं; और

(ख) यदि हां, तो ऐसी कम्पनियां कितनी थीं और ऐसे प्रकरणों में क्या कार्यवाही की गई है ?

**वाणिज्य मंत्रालय में उपमंत्री (जी विश्वनाथ प्रताप सिंह) :** (क) और (ख) इन्दौर की कुछ औषध कम्पनियों द्वारा आयातित कच्चे माल के कथित दुरुपयोग के बारे में शिकायतें प्राप्त हुई हैं। उनकी जांच की जा रही है। इस अवस्था में ब्यारे बताना जांच के हित में नहीं है। जांच पूरी हो जाने के बाद समुचित कार्यवाही की जाएगी।