

SHRI H. K. L. BHAGAT : Is it possible for the Minister to let us know the target date by which we would be self-sufficient in the supply of conventional weapons ?

SHRI VIDYA CHARAN SHUKLA : We have stated several times in the House that we are more or less self-sufficient in conventional weapons. There is no question of setting a target date in such cases. This is a dynamic process which goes on from year and to year. We have to keep pace with the rest of the world keeping in front the various kinds of weapons that are developed so that our armaments do not become obsolete. The question of complete self-sufficiency could never arise.

SHRI DINEN BHATTACHARYYA : May I know whether a certain percentage of the conventional weapons are now exported from India and if so which are the countries to which they are exported ?

MR. SPEAKER : This question relates to another Ministry.

SHRI VIDYA CHARAN SHUKLA : We do export certain varieties of conventional weapons. But I do not think that it is proper for us to disclose either the quantity or the countries which purchase arms from us.

SHRI BUTA SINGH : There is acute shortage of small arms in the country resulting in large-scale smuggling of arms like revolvers, pistols, etc. There is no provision either in the ordnance factories or in the private sector to manufacture these arms. May I know if there is any scheme with the Government to stop smuggling and to have some unit in the public sector to provide small arms, especially in the border states so as to stop smuggling of small arms ?

SHRI VIDYA CHARAN SHUKLA : According to the industrial policy resolution adopted by the House in 1952, it has been decided that the arms production, whether for civilian use or for the use of our armed forces, will be made entirely in the public sector. It is true that from time to time there have been demands from the public for certain types of arms or arms for personal safety or display and in the past when there was not a heavy rush on certain kinds of weapons, the ordnance factories were producing double-barrel breech-loading

shot guns and a certain variety of rifles which were converted from .303. But it is a fact that this has not been able to meet the entire demand in the country, and it is also a question to be considered whether we should allow or encourage the proliferation of arms into various areas where it could be misused. As the hon. Member knows, there are factories which have been going on for several years, before this particular policy decision was taken, in the small-scale sector and the cottage industry sector which are producing small arms, breech-loading weapons and also muzzle-loading weapons. As far as the Government is concerned, at present there is no intention to make any change in the policy.

Adulterated Food Articles in Delhi

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(a) Whether 10 to 30 per cent of the samples of food articles collected each month in Delhi are found adulterated ;

(b) if so, which are the articles usually found adulterated and what are the substances used for adulterating these articles ;

(c) What harm these substances will produce on human bodies ;

(d) Why food adulteration continues to be a major evil despite measures taken to combat it ; and

(e) the steps Government propose to take to put a stop to this evil ?

THE MINISTER OF WORKS AND HOUSING AND HEALTH AND FAMILY PLANNING (SHRI UMA SHANKER DIKSHIT) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) A statement is laid on the Table of the Sabha.

(c) The adulterants like lead chromate etc. used in spices or certain coal-tar-dyes used in confectionary, sweets etc. are toxic and carcinogenic in nature.

(d) The number of traders dealing in food articles is very large and they are widely dispersed all over the city. It is therefore diffi-

cult to ensure that all of them conform to the highest norms of commercial conduct. There is however reason to believe that in Delhi steps taken by Government have brought about some decline in the incidence of food adulteration.

(c) The provisions of the Prevention of Food Adulteration Act have already been made

more stringent and the States asked to ensure proper enforcement of the Act. All the 106 Sanitary Inspectors in the Municipal Corporation, Delhi have been delegated powers of food inspectors. In addition, there is a Central Squad under the Corporation consisting of 8 Food Inspectors under the supervision of a Senior Officer to lift food samples.

Statement

Name of the article	Adulterants
1. Milk ...	Water and abstraction of fat by skimming
2. Ghee ..	Vanaspati
3. Cream, butter ...	Deficiency of fat or addition of Vanaspati
4. Ice-cream	Use of non-permitted colours or deficiency of milk solids
5. Spices	Excessives and or grit, insect infestation, extraneous colours like lead chromate or coal-tar-dyes
6. Honey	Commercial invert sugar
7. Wheat and wheat products	Insects, grit and deficiency in Gluten
8. Coffee Chicory Mixture	Use of excessive amount of chicory
9. Soft drinks	Use of non-permitted colours or suspected matter
10. Fruit products	Deficiency in fruit contents or addition of non-permitted colours.
11. Oils ...	Addition of cheaper oils.

SHRI KALYANASUNDARAM : Sir, from the answer given by the Minister and also the statement placed on the Table of the House, it appears that all essential articles of consumption are being adulterated on a very big scale. I understand that the food inspectors in Delhi are able to catch only the small vendors and they are not empowered to catch the person at the point of adulteration, that is, the wholesale producers who are responsible for the adulteration. May I know whether the Act is going to be amended so as to empower the Food inspectors to attack at the point of adulteration?

SHRI UMA SHANKAR DIKSHIT : The amendment made in 1965 has, in my opinion, considerably improved the position. If we increase this kind of measure, I am not sure to what extent it will be effective, but I am not straightway able to say whether on merits we should amend the Act in order to cover the extra field pointed out by the hon. Member.

SHRI KALYANASUNDARAM : May I know how many cases were detected in Delhi

recently and how many of them were small vendors and how many wholesale dealers?

SHRI UMA SHANKAR DIKSHIT : It is difficult for me to give separate figures for small and large vendors. So far as Delhi is concerned, the percentage of samples found adulterated was in 1965, 22 per cent as against the All-India figure of 31 per cent; in 1966, 22 per cent against 25.5 per cent on All-India basis; in 1967, 19.9 per cent against 25.2 per cent on All-India basis and in 1968, 16.8 as against the All-India figure of 24.3 per cent. The latest figures are not exactly available, but I am assured that the trend had been maintained.

श्री मूलवन्धु डागा : खाद्य पदार्थों में जो मिलावट करते हैं और जो उन खाद्य पदार्थों को बेचते हैं क्या दोनों को एक ही सजा मिलती है? जो मिलावट करने वाले हैं उनको भी वही सजा मिलती है और जो बेचने वाले हैं उनको भी वही सजा मिलती है?

श्री उमाशंकर दीक्षित : जो पकड़े जाते हैं उन्हीं को सजा होती है चाहे वह बनाने वाले हों चाहे बेचने वाले ।

श्री मूलचन्द डागा : लेकिन बेचने वाले का कसूर उतना नहीं होता जितना बनाने वाले का होता है ।

श्री अमरनाथ विद्यालंकार : मिनिस्टर साहब ने बताया कि दूकानदारों की तादाद बहुत ज्यादा है और इसलिए यह मुश्किल हो जाता है कि पूरी तरह से उनको पकड़ा जा सके, तो क्या यह ज्यादा आसान नहीं है कि मैन्युफैक्चरर्स को पकड़ा जाय क्योंकि उनकी तादाद कम है और कानून को एफेक्टिव बनाया जा सकता है, जब मिलावट करने वालों को ही पकड़ा जाय, न कि बेचने वालों को ।

श्री उमाशंकर दीक्षित : इसका मैं अध्ययन करूंगा । मैं तत्काल नहीं कह सकता हूँ कि ऐक्ट के अधीन कितना संभव है या नहीं । लेकिन यदि संभव होगा और आवश्यक होगा तो इस पर हम अवश्य विचार करेंगे । लेकिन यह हमने जरूर किया है कि अधिक वित्तीय व्यवस्था की है जिसमें समय-समय पर अधिक जगहों में लोग जाकर परीक्षण इत्यादि कर सकें ।

श्री हुकम चन्द कछवाय : अक्सर ऐसी चीजें हल्दी, मिर्चा, धनिया, जीरा इत्यादि जो खड़े मसाले बाजार में विकते हैं उनको छोटे व्यापारी बड़े व्यापारियों से लेकर आते हैं, तो मेरा यह कहना है कि यह जो खड़े मसाले होते हैं उनका भी सेम्पल लेते हैं और उन्हें भी लोग पकड़ते हैं और पकड़ कर हैरेस करते हैं इसलिए कि उनसे कुछ ले दे कर मामला रफा दफा कर दिया जाय, क्या यह सही है ?

श्री उमाशंकर दीक्षित : इसकी सूचना नहीं है । यदि माननीय सदस्य कोई सूचना देंगे तो उस पर अवश्य विचार करेंगे और उनको उत्तर भी देंगे ।

SHRI DINESH CHANDRA GOSWAMI : There is a provision under the Food Adulteration Act by which, if a trader, if his goods are found to be adulterated, can make a good defence if he can show that he purchased the goods in the same condition from a producer. There is no provision in the Act by which the producer can be made liable. Is Government contemplating amending the law to catch such producers ?

SHRI UMA SHANKAR DIKSHIT : I cannot say that we are contemplating it. But I shall examine the suggestion.

श्री बी० पी० मौर्य : अध्यक्ष महोदय, राजधानी में मिलावट की कोई कमी नहीं है । मैं आपके माध्यम से मंत्री महोदय से जानना चाहता हूँ कि कुछ चीजों में मिलावट करना जहर देने के समान है । जिस तरह से ताजीरात-ए-हिन्द में जहर देने की सजा रखी गई है, क्या उसी तरह की सख्त सजा मिलावट करने के लिए नहीं रखी जा सकती ताकि इस काम में रूकावट आ सके ।

श्री उमाशंकर दीक्षित : पहले सिर्फ फाइन के साथ 6 महीने की सजा थी—मैं समझता हूँ कि यह कोई मामूली सजा नहीं है....

श्री बी० पी० मौर्य : 6 महीने की सजा तो कुछ भी नहीं है । इसके लिए कम से कम कैपीटल पनिशमेंट होना चाहिए ।

श्री उमाशंकर दीक्षित : पब्लिक ओपीनियन के साथ कानून बनाना ज्यादा अच्छा रहेगा, लेकिन अगर पार्लियामेंट का ऐसा विचार हो और हमें ऐसा मालूम पड़े तो उसपर भी विचार हो सकता है ।

SHRI T. BALAKRISHNIAH : May I know what steps have been taken to check the production of adulterated stuffs which are injurious to health ?

MR. SPEAKER : The Minister has replied to it earlier.