

LOK SABHA

Monday, March 2, 1970 | Phalguna  
11, 1891 (SAKA).

*The Lok Sabha met at Eleven  
of the Clock.*

[MR. SPEAKER in the Chair]

Obituary Reference

MR. SPEAKER : I have to inform the House of the sad demise of Shri Radhavallabh Vijaivargiya who passed away at Indore on the 23rd February, 1970. Shri Vijaivargiya was a Member of the Constituent Assembly of India during the years 1948-1950. He was also a Minister in the Madhya Bharat Government during 1952-57.

We deeply mourn the loss of this friend and I am sure the House will join me in conveying our condolences to the bereaved family.

THE PRIME MINISTER, MINISTER OF FINANCE, MINISTER OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND MINISTER OF PLANNING (SHRIMATI INDIRA GANDHI): Mr. Speaker, Sir, we fully associate ourselves with the sentiments expressed by you. We would like our condolences and deep sympathies to be conveyed to the bereaved family.

DR. RAM SUBHAG SINGH (Buxar) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, we share the sentiments expressed by you on the sad demise of Shri Radhavallabh Vijaivargiya. He was a very sincere and conscientious Member and he took active part in social movements in Madhya Pradesh. On behalf of the Opposition, I request you to convey our deep sense of sorrow to his bereaved family.

MR. SPEAKER : The House may stand in silence for a short while to express its sorrow.

*Members then stood in silence for a short while*

श्री अटल बिहारी वाजपेयी (बलराम पुर) : अध्यक्ष महोदय, मुझे एक निवेदन करना है। बार्डर पेपर में कांस्टीटुएन्ट असेम्बली आफ इंडिया लिखा हुआ है, यह ठीक नहीं है। इसको संविधान सभा कहना ही काफी है, एक ही संविधान सभा हुई थी।

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTION

Adulteration of Food Articles and Edible oils  
Causing Cancer

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\*151. SHRI RAGHUVIR SINGH,  
SHASTRI :

SHRI D. N. PATODIA :

SHRI N. K. SOMANI :

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY PLANNING AND WORKS, HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that according to the data collected by his Ministry the percentage of adulteration in food articles in Delhi and all over the country has reached an explosive situation ;

(b) whether it is also a fact that some of the edible colours used in Jilebis, Papads, peas etc., are so adulterated that according to health authorities, it may lead to cancer ;

(c) whether it is also a fact that edible oils are mixed with mobile oil and other non-edible oil which are extremely injurious to health ;

(d) if so, whether in view of the above, Government consider it desirable to bring

changes in legislation to curb the evil and if not, the particulars of measures taken to deal with the situation ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY PLANNING AND WORKS, HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI B. S. MURTHY) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) The Prevention of Food Adulteration Rules, 1955, permit the use of certain colours in some articles of food. Some unscrupulous dealers, however, use non-permitted colours some of which are carcinogenic in nature such as mentanil yellow in jalebis, papads etc.

(c) Amongst edible oils, mustard oil is found to be adulterated with groundnut and linseed oils which are cheaper than mustard oil, but non-poisonous. In stray cases adulteration with mineral oils and argemone oils which are poisonous in nature, was found.

(d) 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.

A Central Unit is being set up to check the menace of food adulteration alongwith the State Health Authorities concerned. The Unit will be mainly concerned with the functions prescribed in rule 9 of the Prevention of Food Adulteration Rules in respect of inter-State offences and will help in giving technical guidance to State Governments.

श्री रघुबीर सिंह शास्त्री : श्रीमन्, मैं ने अपने प्रश्न के पहले भाग में पूछा था कि क्या खाद्य पदार्थों में अपमिश्रण की प्रतिशतता गम्भीर स्थिति में पहुँच गई है जिसका उत्तर मन्त्री जी ने "नो" में दिया है। जिस ऐक्ट को उन्होंने यह कहा है कि हमारा जो बी. एफ. ए. ऐक्ट है जिसका सन् 1965 में संशोधन हुआ, उसको हम बहुत सख्त बना रहे हैं। मैं मन्त्री जी से पूछना चाहता हूँ कि यह ऐक्ट सन् 65 में पास किया गया लेकिन क्या यह ठीक है कि गवर्नमेंट आफ इंडिया के सर्वे के अनुसार ही इस ऐक्ट

के पास होने के बाद से आज तक जो एडल्टरेशन है वह तीन सौ परसेन्ट बढ़ गया है—जिसमें से कुछ आइटम्स तो ऐसे हैं जैसे कि दाल है, जिस को कि इस देश का हर एक आदमी खाता है, उसमें 5 से सौ प्रतिशत तक एडल्टरेशन होता है, इसी प्रकार घी में 12 से 50 परसेन्ट तक और चाय में 23 से 36 प्रतिशत तक एडल्टरेशन होता है, तो ऐसी स्थिति में मन्त्री जी ने किस आधार पर कहा है कि अपमिश्रण की जो प्रतिशतता है वह गम्भीर नहीं हुई है ?

इसके साथ ही मैं यह जानना चाहता हूँ कि भारत सरकार ने स्टेट्स से मिलकर इस ऐक्ट के पास होने के बाद कौन से ऐसे कारगर उपाय किए जिनसे यह कम हो सकता था ? आज की स्थिति यह है कि हमारे यहाँ जो लोकल बाडीज, स्थानीय निकाय हैं उनको भ्रष्टाचार का पर्यायवाची अर्थात् भ्रष्टाचार निकाय समझा जाता है। ऐसी स्थिति में लोकल बाडीज को काम सौपने का मतलब करप्शन बाडीज को काम सौपना होता है। तो इस प्रकार से आपने भ्रष्टाचार को छूट दे दी है। मैं पूछना चाहता हूँ कि इसके लिए क्या कारगर उपाय किये जा रहे हैं ?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY PLANNING AND WORKS, HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI K. K. SHAH) : Sir, in 1965 the total number of food samples examined were 1,66,992 and the number of samples found adulterated was 51,957 and it was 31.1%. In 1966 the number of samples examined was higher at 1,74,158 and the number of samples found adulterated was less at 44,508 and the percentage was 25.5. In 1967, the number of samples examined was 1,56,666 and the total number of samples found adulterated was 39,363—25.1%. The number of convictions in 1965 was 30250; in 1966—23,282 and in 1967 it was 19,968. Even though the number of samples was less, the number of convictions was higher. In 1965 the number of persons imprisoned was 1610; in 1966—4716 and 1967—4383.

Fines realised in 1966—Rs. 37,33,404 and in 1967 it was Rs. 35,40,469.

Therefore, my hon. friend will be satisfied that even when the number of samples went up the percentage of adulterated articles was found to be less. It does not mean that we are satisfied. We are trying our best and the following steps have been taken :

1. Creation of Food Research Standardisation Centre at Ghaziabad.
2. Publicity on Prevention of Food Adulteration.
3. Setting up of Regional Organisations for prevention of food adulteration.
4. Provision also now has been made that instead of two witnesses, 1 witness is enough at the time of drawing of sample.
5. Provision has also been made for Indemnity bond equivalent to the value of the article seized by the Food Inspector when the goods are kept in the custody of the vendor.

श्री रघुवीर सिंह शास्त्री : श्रीमन्, मन्त्री जी ने बताया कि इसको रोकने के लिए उन्होंने इन्तजाम किए हैं और इस सिलसिले में उन्होंने एक मिसाल यह दी कि जुमाने में 35 लाख रुपया एक साल में बसूल किया लेकिन यह जो इन्स्पेक्टर हैं उनकी जेब में रिश्वत का कितना रुपया गया होगा क्या उसका भी कोई अन्दाजा वे बता सकते हैं ? और उस कमेटी ने यह फ़ैसला किया कि हिन्दुस्तान में 25 हजार आदमियों के ऊपर एक इन्स्पेक्टर रहना चाहिए इस बात की निगरानी करने के लिये, लेकिन परिस्थिति यह है कि इस कमेटी की सिफारिश के बाद भी इस समय 1 करोड़ 30 लाख आदमियों के हिस्से में एक इन्स्पेक्टर आता है। एक सिफारिश यह थी कि देश में कम से कम 500 लेबोरेट्रीज होनी चाहिए...

अध्यक्ष महोदय : आप खुद सब कुछ बतलायेंगे क्या ? आप सवाल कीजिए।

श्री रघुवीर सिंह शास्त्री : 500 लेबोरेट्रीज होनी चाहिए लेकिन इस देश में केवल 63 लेबोरेट्रीज हैं। यह गवर्नमेन्ट की अपनी सिफारिश, अपना सुझाव है, लेकिन उस पर भी अमल नहीं होता है। इस विषय में मंत्री महोदय का क्या कहना ?

SHRI K. K. SHAH : The real difficulty is that sanitary inspectors are empowered by the local bodies to do the work of food inspectors whole-time. Therefore, we have now been trying to persuade the corporations and local bodies to appoint whole-time inspectors within their budget. We have also taken concurrent powers to appoint food inspectors and public analysts, thus enabling the Central Government to have effective and better administration.

SHRI N. K. SOMANI : May I know whether the attention of the Government of India has been drawn to very valuable research data submitted by Mrs. Kamala J. N. Ranadive of the Cancer Research Institute located at Bombay at the recently held Indian Science Congress at Kharagpur entitled *Tissue culture in Studies of Carcinogen*, where it has been proved by the result of her studies and research over a long period of time that the solution of non-edible solvents in the edible oils causes cancer among human beings, and if these results have come to the notice of the Government of India what effective steps they are taking to see that all solvent extract manufacturers who supply these oils to the vanaspathi manufacturers are brought under strict and complete supervision so that the dangers of cancer are arrested ? Secondly, it is a very widely followed practice to use a dye known as metanil yellow, a very cheap substitute for kesar, by the sweet meat makers, which is noxious and which also leads to cancer. What particular steps would the government take to ensure that every label containing metanil yellow in this country should be stamped with a warning that it should not be used for any preparation for edible materials at all ?

**SHRI K. K. SHAH :** It is true that some unscrupulous dealers use non-permitted colours which are carcinogenic, that is, causing cancer. That is why we have instructed that more samples should be taken of the edible oils and stringent punishment should be given to the offenders.

**SHRI N. K. SOMANI :** My questions have not been answered. Let me re-state them a little more simply. We have a number of solvent extractors in India who continue to supply sub-standard extracts for non-edible oils to the vanaspathi manufacturers. What particular superintendence do you propose to have on these people so that these dangerous agents are not supplied to vanaspathi manufacturers, because according to Dr. Ranadive's research they cause cancer? My second question is about meta-nil yellow.

**SHRI K. K. SHAH :** That is why I said that the sampling of oil has been made more extensive and intensive so that we are able to find out whether non-solvents are added to the edible oils.

**SHRI BALGOVIND VERMA :** There is no use denying the fact that there is widespread adulteration of goods in India. We can hardly get anything which is pure.

**SHRI KANWAR LAL GUPTA :** Even ministers are adulterated.

**SHRI BALGOVIND VERMA :** Under the circumstances I would like to know whether Government propose to bring about any change in the existing law to make it more stringent. Secondly, what is Government doing to further the cause of consumers by extending help to voluntary organisations like the Consumer Council of India set up by consumers?

**SHRI K. K. SHAH :** That is why the punishment now is minimum of six months imprisonment and a fine of not less than Rs. 1,000. So far as the non-official organisations are concerned, they have been doing very good work. Any information given by them is quickly gone into. Their help is also taken in tracing these things.

**SHRI SHRI CHAND GOYAL :** Is the hon. Minister aware that many a case fall be-

cause of technical difficulties? For instance, the food inspector his assistant or the peon alone is produced in evidence and the court holds that no independent respectable man has been associated with it. Thus, many a people go scot free. I want to know whether in the light of these judgments Government would try to amend this rule so that the culprits do not escape because of the technical difficulty. Secondly, is the Government aware that the food inspectors are having a better standard of life than ministers or secretaries of the Government of India; they are spending Rs. 5,000 to Rs. 6,000 a month on their standard of living? Has the Government ever held an inquiry into from where that income comes so that they can maintain such high standards? Implementation and enforcement of the law is more urgently required than making it more stringent.

**SHRI K. K. SHAH :** It is true that formally because two witnesses were necessary at the time of sampling, sometimes contradiction between the two witnesses in the court used to result in an acquittal. Therefore now only one witness will be necessary at the time of drawing the sample. The second most important and difficult question is, as all lawyers know, that independent analysis are produced as witnesses against the analyst produced by us and the benefit of doubt goes to the accused. Therefore expert analysts are now being appointed in each State.

**श्री देवेन सेन :** क्या मंत्री महोदय बतलायेंगे कि दिल्ली में पिछले एक महीने के अन्दर खाद्य वस्तुओं के ऐडल्टरेशन के लिए कोई पकड़ा गया है या नहीं, दूसरी बात यह कि सरकार की जो मशीनरी है इसे चेक करने के लिए वह ठीक से काम कर रही है या नहीं, तीसरे क्या कानून को इस तरह से बदलने का कोई विचार है कि अगर कोई कसूरवार पाया जाय तो उस को पब्लिकली विह्व किया जाय।

**SHRI K. K. SHAH :** The information as to who were arrested in Delhi during the last month is not with me at the moment. But the present law is very deterrent and if it is administered well, I hope, there will be no difficulty.

**SHRI BEDABRATA BARUA :** When samples are sent for examination, they are usually sent because the local body finds that the sample is really bad and only when a genuine sample is obtained. The crux of the problem is as to what the examiner does with the sample. There is very great suspicion that this man who is supposed to examine the sample usually takes money; that is why, only 30 per cent of them are charged with the offence and the rest go scot free. What measure is Government contemplating to see that samples are examined not by one person but by two different persons so that it becomes a little more difficult or some such measure by which the law can be tightened?

**SHRI K. K. SHAH :** The sample is divided into three parts when the sample is taken. One is handed over to the man from whom the sample is drawn, one is kept in our custody and the third is sent to the analyst. So, the fear of the sample being interfered with no longer exists.

**DR. SUSHILA NAYAR :** Is it not a fact that a number of colours and a number of other chemicals, like, cyclamates that are used in foodstuffs have been declared to be dangerous to health as a result of researches in India as well as outside India? Many other countries have banned the use of these chemical agents as food. Similarly, so far as the chemical or solvent extraction of oil is concerned, our nutrition experts have been opposing the use of chemical solvents in the process of oil extraction. But because of some large imports of solvent extracted oil in India and pressures from various quarters, on an experimental basis these solvents extracted oils were allowed. Now, the researches have shown that these chemical solvents are carcinogenic. I would like to know what steps Government have taken to ban these solvents for oil extraction as well as the chemical agents, like, cyclamates and other colours which are known to be dangerous to health. Many other countries have banned them. I wrote to the Health Minister about it. I would like to know if any action has been taken. I am not aware of it.

**SHRI K. K. SHAH :** This has been prohibited. Even the mixture of two edible oils is prohibited. As I said before, we have given instructions to State Governments

that more samples of edible oil should be taken to find out whether any solvent has been added. This is the only way we can detect it. There is no other way.

**DR. SUSHILA NAYAR :** The point is this. The mechanical extraction is safer than chemical solvent extraction. This is the advice of nutrition experts and others. On an experimental basis, the chemical solvent extraction of oils was allowed. What prevents you from stopping that and going back to the mechanical extraction which is safe?

**SHRI JAGANNATH RAO JOSHI :** What about the use of cyclamates? You have not replied to that.

**SHRI K. K. SHAH :** As I said, this is prohibited. The use of cyclamates is not permitted in India.

**DR. SUSHILA NAYAR :** But saccharin and its equivalents are permitted.

**SHRI K. K. SHAH :** I will get it examined.

**श्री मोल्लू प्रसाद :** खाद्य अपमिश्रण अधिनियम को अनिवार्य बनाने के लिए सरकार क्या उपाय कर रही है ताकि खाद्यान्नों का व्यापार करने वाले लोग जनता के स्वास्थ्य के साथ खिलवाड़ न कर सकें ?

**SHRI K. K. SHAH :** They have been made more stringent in 1965. The minimum sentence is six months.

**श्री मोल्लू प्रसाद :** कठोर नहीं कम्पलसरी ।

**SHRI K. K. SHAH :** The fact that is an offence means it is compulsory.

#### भारत में विदेशी बैंक

\*152. **श्री हुकम चन्द कछवाय :** क्या वित्त मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) देश में इस समय कितने विदेशी बैंक हैं; और