

[Translation]

**Purchase of edible oils by Hindustan Vegetable Oil Corporation**

\*183. SHRI KAMLA PRASAD RAWAT : Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state :

(a) whether officers of the Hindustan Vegetable Oil Corporation purchased edible oil from the market at arbitrary rates without inviting tenders and paid double of the market price for it;

(b) whether there is apprehension of any irregularity in the purchase of oil containers such as canisters and cans; and

(c) if so, the action taken so far against the officers found guilty and the number of the firms involved in this ?

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO) : (a) to (c) Some information regarding the irregularities committed by Hindustan Vegetable Oils Corporation in the purchase of edible oils and containers was received by the Government. Immediately a preliminary enquiry was conducted, the conclusions of which necessitated a further probe into the matter. Accordingly, the matter was entrusted to the CBI for detailed enquiry. Their report in the matter is awaited. Any action against the officers who may be involved in the irregularities, can only be taken after the receipt of the CBI's report.

[Translation]

SHRI KAMLA PRASAD RAWAT : Mr. Speaker, Sir, for an impartial inquiry, it is necessary that they are either removed or transferred from there; only then a proper inquiry is possible.

SHRI K. P. SINGH DEO : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the question is not clear,

Whom the hon. Member wants to be removed ?

MR. SPEAKER : Mr. Rawat, do you want to remove the inquiry itself, please put your question again.

SHRI KAMLA PRASAD RAWAT : Mr. Speaker, Sir, will the hon. Minister issue orders for the removal of the officers involved so that the inquiry is impartial and independent ?

The other point which I want to raise is that in my main question I had also asked about the firms from whom the corporation had purchased the stock, but my question has not been replied to. That part of my question may also please be answered.

I am asking about the transfer or removal of the officials of the Corporation against whom inquiry is going on ?

[English]

SHRI K. P. SINGH DEO : The inquiry has just started. Unless a *prima facie* case is established, and a conclusion is arrived at, we cannot keep on shifting or transferring people from one place to another. The inquiry is by the C.B.I. and I am sure that hon. Members will agree with me that it will be an impartial inquiry. If the CBI feels that during the inquiry or examination, that someone is to be shifted, then they will be shifted.

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER : Mr. Rawat, do you want to ask another supplementary ?

SHRI KAMLA PRASAD RAWAT : It is all right, action may be taken after the inquiry is over.

SHRIMATI KRISHNA SAHI : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I want to know from the hon. Minister the time by which the report of the C.B.I. will be submitted; has any period been fixed for that ?

[English]

SHRI K. P. SINGH DEO : No time limit can be given nor can any details be given when the inquiry is going to be completed. But the CBI has been requested to expedite its inquiry and give its recommendations.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE : At least say during the term of this Government.

SHRI K. P. SINGH DEO : Most certainly.

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Vishnu Modi. Absent.

Shri Ram Bhagat Paswan. Absent.

#### Employees killed in Coal Mines

\*186. SHRIMATI PRABHAWATI GUPTA : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

Year	No. of Fatal accidents	No. of persons killed	No. of serious accidents	No. of persons seriously injured.
1	2	3	4	5
1980	58	72	372	390
1981	68	71	344	379
1982	56	76	343	368
1983	60	84	326	348
1984	51	58	175	183

Accidents were caused mainly due to fall of roof, fall of side, use of explosives and movement of transportation machinery within the mine.

The provisions of the Mines Act, 1952, and the rules and regulations framed thereunder, which take care of safety in mines, are enforced by the Directorate General of Mines Safety. These provisions were strengthened by the amendment Act of 1983, which came into force on 31st May, 1984. This, among other things, provided for appointment of Workmen Inspectors, setting up of statutory Pit Safety Committees and gave powers to Inspectors to prohibit employment for

(a) whether a large number of employees of coal mines in Bihar died in accidents due to non-adoption of safety measures; and

(b) the steps Union Government propose to take to enforce safety measures in these mines to save the lives of the people ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI T. ANJIAH) : (a) and (b) A statement is given below.

#### Statement

The number of workers of coal mines in Bihar killed and seriously injured in accidents during the last five years was as under :

reasons of continuous violation of safety matters. The penal provisions were enhanced and a minimum fine of rupees two thousand was provided for gross negligence or recklessness. Violation of orders prohibiting employment in dangerous places would meet with compulsory imprisonment. The Inspectors are given powers to conduct special surveys and studies, particularly in relation to occupational health matters.

The Directorate General has been instructed to examine the existing procedures regarding inspection of mines and follow-up action on inspection reports as well as specific action to be taken in case of