

As regards sacchrine, according to the recommendations of the World Health Organization, the permissible use of sacchrine in humans may be 0.25 mgs per kilogram body weight per day. The Foods and Drugs Administration USA has banned the use of cyclamates with effect from 11th September, 1970. This was followed by similar bans in some other countries, although the substance is still available in few countries. The artificial sweetener aspartame was approved by the FIDA in USA for the use both as a table top sweetener as also in liquid preparations in 1983.

DR. G. VIJAYA RAMA RAO: In rural areas, the Saccharin is used in some of the sweets and these sweets are being adulterated by the Saccharin. Similarly, the soft drinks and some of the beverages are also being adulterated with the saccharin. So, I would like to know from the Minister whether they will have some checks for such sweets and soft drinks.

KUMARI SAROJ KHAPARDE: Sir, we have received requests in the past for the permission to allow the use of saccharin in other items of food like, Ice-cream, Icy-candy, processed Supari, Pan Masala, Biscuits and many other things like these. Sir, a special group under the Chairmanship of Director General was constituted to consider this particular problem and at one stage it was suggested that saccharin may be allowed in some of the products. But keeping in view the suggestion of the Food Additive Sub-Committee, the Sweetner was not allowed. (*Interruptions*)

SHRI MADAN PANDEY: Mr. Speaker, Sir, her reply indicates that attention is being given to the use of Saccharin only. I know that there are certain herbs in Indian forests which are not likely to prove harmful if used as saccharin. I made use of one such herb and I enjoyed its sweetness without any side-effect. I would like to know from the hon.

Minister whether the government propose to start a research work in this field in order to find out herbs which could be used as saccharin, in stead of depending on U.S.A. regarding the safety in the use of saccharin.

SHRI BALKAVI BAIRAGI: Mr. Speaker Sir, I am afraid she might go to forests at his behest.

MR. SPEAKER: Bairagiji, what sort of trap you are referring to?

SHRI MADAN PANDEY: May I know whether the Government propose to set up a committee of Ayurvedic experts to conduct such a research work if the same has not been undertaken so far?

MR. SPEAKER: It is enough now.

SHRI MADAN PANDEY: More than 10 crores of people in the country are diabetic. Do you propose to consider this matter?

KUMARI SAROJ KHAPARDE: The hon. Member has asked a Question about diabetes and in that he is suggesting the use of herbs in place of saccharin. I would like to tell that our Ayurvedic experts conduct research in this regard. But nothing concrete has come out which I may mention for your information. But the experts will continue their efforts to find out some such alternative and make it available to the people.

[*English*]

Water charges against Calcutta Metro

*601. SHRI GADADHAR SAHA†:
SHRI AMAL DATTA:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Calcutta Municipal Corporation has submitted a bill to Metro

Railway for consumption of water during its construction works;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken to pay the dues to Calcutta Municipal Corporation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) and (b). A bill amounting to Rs. 71 lakhs was submitted by the Calcutta Municipal Corporation for consumption of water in the construction works of Metro Railway.

(c) As per the provisions of Metro Railway contracts, the contractors have to make arrangements for water needed for construction works, at their cost. The liability for making payments on this account, if due, lies solely with the contractors.

SHRI GADADHAR SAHA: Mr Speaker Sir, in view of the reply given, I would like to know as to what steps are under consideration by the Ministry to fix the liability on the contractors concerned for payment of dues to the CMC and to see that the CMC is helped in getting its dues because the contractors are not a direct party as far as the CMC is concerned.

SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA: I have already mentioned that in terms of the provisions of the Metro Railway contracts, the entire cost of construction work covered by those contracts is to be borne by the contractors and therefore, the liability devolves on them.

SHRI AMAL DATTA: Sir, I think the Minister is stating a proposition which is totally unacceptable under the Indian jurisprudence, namely, that a contract between his Ministry and the contractors supercedes the law which is prevailing. The law states that a person who bills and uses the municipi-

pal water has to pay for the municipal water. Here, the building is constructed by the Metro Railway. They may have done it themselves or they may have got it done through the contractors. But the liability is theirs. If Shri Madhavrao Schindia is not aware of the legal position, he may have it ascertained. But, the way the question has been answered and responsibility is sought to be evaded, to acknowledge the amount — I believe that they are aware of the legal position — and yet they are seeking to fix the responsibility on the contractors to escape themselves. This is not a very good thing for the Railways to do for such a small sum of Rs. 71 lakhs. Railways is such a big organisation to which everybody looks up with respect and awe. Therefore, will the Minister kindly examine the position and see that the payment is made by the Metro Railways? They can deduct the same amount certainly from the contractors.

SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA: The position has already been examined and we stick to our interpretation. I would also like to make it clear that we have not acknowledge the amount of Rs. 71 lakhs because it is a matter between the contractors and the Calcutta Municipal Corporation.

MR. SPEAKER: Next Question. Q. No. 603. Shri Kali Prasad Pandey.

SHRI KALI PRASAD PANDEY: Q. No. 603.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (KUMARI SAROJ KHAPARDE)

— rose

(Interruptions)

KUMARI SAROJ KHAPARDE: (a) Standards for the following eleven Cosmetics in finished form as per ISI specifications have been notified under Drugs and Cos-

metics Rules (*Interruptions*)

If you want, I will avoid that part of the reply.
Don't worry.

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA: That I will reply.

[*Translation*]

MR. SPEAKER: Guptaji has silenced you.

[*English*]

KUMARI SAROJ KHAPARDE: If you have any objection, I will just avoid that part.

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA: I am defending your right.

MR. SPEAKER: You should be thankful for his chivalry.

(*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

Manufacture of Sub-standard Cosmetics

603. SHRI KALI PRASAD PANDEY: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that sub-standard cosmetics (such as shaving cream, shaving soap, after shave lotion, soap, etc.) are being manufactured in various industrial units on a large scale resulting in large flow of sub-standard shaving materials and cosmetics in the market;

(b) if so, the action taken so far against the companies manufacturing sub-standard goods from January, 1987 to date, State-wise; and

(c) the details of the action taken to

check the quality of these products, State-wise?

[*English*]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (KUMARI SAROJ KHAPARDE): (a) Standards for the following eleven Cosmetics in finished form as per ISI specifications have been notified under Drugs and Cosmetics Rules:—

1. Skin Powder.
2. Skin Powder for infants.
3. Tooth Powder.
4. Tooth Paste.
5. Skin Creams.
6. Hair Oils.
7. Shampoo, soap based.
8. Shampoo, synthetic detergent based.
9. Hair creams.
10. Oxidation hair dyes, liquid.
12. Cologne.

Standards for shaving cream, shaving soap, after shave lotion, soap etc. have not yet been notified.

(b) and (c). Information is being collected from the State licensing Authorities as the control over the manufacture and sale of drugs and cosmetics under the Drugs and Cosmetics Act and Rules thereunder, is exercised by the State Licensing Authorities appointed by the respective State Governments.