

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI RAFIQUE ALAM): (a) to (c). No separate record regarding re-imbursment of the cost of blood to CGHS beneficiaries is maintained. However, all efforts are made to settle such claims expeditiously.

[*Translation*]

**Reduction in Supply of edible Oils to Maharashtra**

3238. SHRIKESHORAO PARDHI: Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the quantity of imported edible oils (Palmolein) to be supplied to the State of Maharashtra has suddenly been reduced with effect from December, 1988;

(b) whether due to this cut and packing problems, difficulties are being experienced to supply even half kilogram of palmolein per month per card in rural areas; and

(c) whether in view of this, Government propose to increase the quantity of imported edible oils to be supplied to be State Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI SUKH RAM): (a) to (c). As the availability of indigenous oil in the country has improved on account of better production of edible oil-seeds, import of oil has been reduced substantially and the allocation of imported oils to the all States/UTs including that of Maharashtra has proportionately been slashed down w.e.f. December 1988. There are no packing problems as there is adequate packing capacity with Hindustan Vegetable Oils Corporation in Bombay. Considering the request of the Govt. of Maharashtra, allocation of imported oil to the

State has been enhanced for the month of July, 1989 to the extent possible. However, the due to limited stock of imported edible oil with the Government it would not be possible to increase the allocation to the level of corresponding period of last year.

[*English*]

**Ayurveda Centre in USSR**

3239. SHRI P.M. SAYEED:  
SHRI ANANTA PRASAD  
SETHI:

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Soviet Union have approved a scheme to set up Ayurveda Centre in USSR as a joint venture by the Soviet Research Centre for Preventive Medicine and the Maharishi Mahesh Yogi Ayurved Foundation of India;

(b) if so, the details of the scheme,

(c) the progress made in this regard; and

(d) the aims and objects with which the centre is being established in Moscow?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI RAFIQUE ALAM): (a) to (d). This Ministry has no information.

**Steps to Ban use of Artificial Colour**

3240. DR. B.L. SHAILESH: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to refer to the reply given on 12 April, 1989 to Unstarred Question No. 5888 regarding ban on use of colours and flavours in feed article and state:

(a) what specific action has since been

taken to ban the use of the artificial colours and flavours, particularly when they do not add to nutritional value of food; and

(b) the stage at which the matter stands at present?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIRAFIQUE ALAM): (a) and (b). As per the provisions of Prevention of Food Adulteration Rules, 1955 at present, 11 synthetic colours are permitted to be used in specific food items. Out these, on the basis of advise of the experts, Ministry of Health & F.W. has decided to ban three synthetic colours, namely, (1) Amaranth, (2) Fast Red E and (3) Green S.

Names of prohibited flavours have also been listed under Prevention of Food Adulteration Rules, 1955.

#### **Textile Modernisation fund**

3241. DR. B.L. SHAILESH: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have conducted a review of the working of the Textile Modernisation Fund to ascertain as to how far it has helped the healthy and other small and weak units to update their machinery etc.

(b) if so, when and its outcome;

(c) the corpus of this Funds when constituted and the amount utilised therefrom so far for assistance to healthy units and weak but viable units separately;

(d) whether a handful of healthy units are cornering a substantial portion of this Fund while weak but viable units eligible for special loan facilities have been left in the lurch; and

(e) if so, the steps which Government propose to take to remedy the situation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (KUMARI SAROJ KHAPARDE): (a) and (b). Government reviews the implementation of the Textile Modernisation Fund from time to time. The last review was done on 6th June, 1989 and the IDBI was advised to ensure that all legitimate applications of weak units are provided assistance.

(c) The Textiles Modernisation Fund was created with a corpus of Rs. 750 crores for a five year period beginning 1st August, 1986. A sum of Rs. 375.14 crores has been disbursed to 135 units including special loan of Rs. 9.05 crores to 24 weak units, as on 31.3.1989.

(d) and (e). While bulk of the assistance has gone to healthy units, and percentage of rejection/closure/withdrawal has been higher in case of applications of weak units, no specific case regarding rejection/denial of application of an eligible weak mill by IDBI, has been brought to the notice of the Govt. so far.

#### **Link of Leprosy with underground Fossil Fuel Deposits**

3242. DR. B.L. SHAILESH: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Indian Scientists who analysed leprosy incidence data from four continents have come up with amazing findings that link the prevalence of leprosy with under-ground fossil fuel deposits;

(b) whether according to these researchers, practices like forced segregation and clustering of leprosy patients and consanguinity among them help maintain susceptibility of the disease; and