

Use of Preservatives and Colours in Food

201. SHRI P.R. KUMARMANGALAM: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that many preservatives and colouring matters which are added during food processing are toxic in nature;

(b) if so, the list of those preservatives and colouring matters which have been found to be toxic and have been banned;

(c) whether any guidelines have been issued to obtain prior clearance before usage of these preservatives and colouring matters?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI NILMANI ROUTRAY): (a) to (c). Prevention of Food Adulteration Act, 1954 and Rules 1955 prescribe the list of permitted preservatives and colours to be used in specific food items upto a specified limit. Use of these permitted preservatives and colours upto the prescribed limit is safe from health point of view.

Use of any other chemical as preservative and colouring matter other than those permitted under Prevention of Food Adulteration Rules, 1955, is prohibited. Moreover, on the basis of advice of experts, the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare has decided to ban three synthetic colours out of eleven synthetic colours permitted at present, namely "Amaranth", Fast Red 'E' and Green 'S'.

Collaboration with Cuba to Manufacture Medicine for Leucoderma

202. SHRI P.R. KUMARAMANGALAM: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a plant to manufacture medicine for treating Leucoderma is proposed to be set up in collaboration with Cuba;

(b) if so, whether scientists at R&D laboratories such as CDRI, Lucknow had in the past worked on the same cure and found this to be unsatisfactory; and

(c) if so, whether Government have carried out any controlled clinical trials to test the efficacy of this 'Cure' before going in for foreign collaboration?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI NILMANI ROUTRAY): (a) to (c). No, Sir. However a protocol signed with Cuba, inter alia, envisaged collaborations in the field of traditional Medicines/Medicinal plants (the area of collaboration being Leucoderma). The Central Council for Research in Unani Medicine is the Indian Agency identified for the purpose.

Amendment to Contract Labour (Regulation and Abolition) Act

203. SHRI P.R. KUMARAMANGALAM: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Contract Labour (Regulation and abolition) Act, 1970 provides for abolition but not for regularisation or absorption of the contract labour and this situation renders many unemployed; and

(b) if so, the remedial measures proposed to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND WELFARE (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN): (a) Yes, Sir. The Contract Labour (Regulation and Abolition) Act, 1970, is meant to regulate the employment of contract labour in certain establishments and to provide for its abolition in certain circumstances and for