

MR. SPEAKER: Hon. Member, please put your question.

SHRI HARBHAJAN LAKHA: The Ministry of Rehabilitation was formed in 1948. Today 10 crores distressed labourers who have fled the villages have been living in towns. I request that a Ministry under the title 'Rehabilitation Ministry' should be formed once again and the newly formed Ministry should create employment opportunities for these people. A lot of hue and cry has been raised about the people who are migrating from Kashmir and Punjab.

MR. SPEAKER: Hon. Member, please take your seat.

SHRI HARBHAJAN LAKHA: That is why I would like to say that.....

MR. SPEAKER: Hon. Member, please take your seat.

SHRI HARBHAJAN LAKHA: Juggies of labourers are being set ablaze and the labourers are being burnt alive. I would like to say that the Government should make an ex-gratia payment of Rs. 1 lakh to each of the labourers so killed.

MR. SPEAKER: Hon. Member, it is over. Please take your seat.

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Government is taking a serious note of the points made by the hon. Member. We are thinking of enacting separate legislations for both construction labourers and agricultural labourers.

SHRI MANJAY LAL: Will the hon. Minister please state about the steps the Government is going to take for the welfare of labourers engaged in hair cutting, washing, hotels and shops.

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN: There are separate laws for each of them

[English]

SHRI P.R. KUMARAMANGALAM: The Government which has announced in the last four months nearly 20 committees should not criticize about the earlier committee. Within four months they have done it.

Now there exists a Contract Labour Abolition and Regulation Act. It is important to realise that this Act provides only for abolition and regulation and not for regularisation. Today a contract labour cannot be regularised. You can only abolish him or you can regulate the method of having the contract labour. It is a lacuna. There has been a demand—not now but for many years—to provide for regularisation of the contract labour in the Act. The contract labour is one major fraction of unorganised labour. Is the Government going to bring a Bill to amend the law to correct this lacuna in the Act?

[Translation]

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, so far as the Contract Labourers are concerned, we fully share the concern of the hon. members that they cannot be continued as contract labourers for long. A large number of them have been regularised and many more will be regularised in the near future.

[English]

### **Scheme to Combat Blindness**

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\*229. SHRI ANADI CHARAN DAS:  
SHRI BHAJAMAN BEHERA:

Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have been implementing any scheme to fortify milk with vitamin-A to combat blindness; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and how such a scheme is being implemented in the rural areas where there are no dairies such

as Mother Dairy or DMS?

**THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI NATHU RAM MIRDHA):** (a) Government have been implementing a scheme to fortify dairy milk with Vitamin-A so as to prevent blindness caused by Vitamin-A deficiency.

(b) The milk which is supplied by dairies loses its Vitamin-A content to a great extent due to removal of fat or addition of skimmed milk powder during processing. In order to restore the Vitamin-A content in such milk, it is fortified with Vitamin-A, under the scheme.

In rural areas, fresh and unprocessed milk is generally available. Vitamin-A content in this milk is not lost. Therefore, the need for fortifying milk with Vitamin-A in rural areas is not felt.

**AN HON. MEMBER:** Sir, this question is shown against the Health Ministry. How is it that the Minister of Food and Civil Supplies is answering this question?

**MR. SPEAKER:** It has been transferred. Not it pertains to the Food and Civil Supplies Ministry.

**SHRI NATHU RAM MIRDHA:** This question has been transferred to my Ministry and therefore I am answering this question.

**SHRI ANADI CHARAN DAS:** Sir, Part (b) of the answer reads:

"The milk which is supplied by dairies loses its Vitamin-A content to a great extent due to removal of fat or addition of skimmed milk powder during processing. In order to restore the Vitamin-A content in such milk, it is fortified with Vitamin-A, under the scheme."

May I know, Sir, what is the guarantee that Vitamin A is available with the processed milk or not and how a layman can understand that Vitamin A which is available with the processed milk is in the required quantity and quality?

[*Translation*]

**SHRI NATHU RAM MIRDHA:** A layman can not verify whether milk contains vitamins or not. It is the responsibility of the Government to fortify the milk with essential vitamins at the dairy for supply in towns and villages. Vitamin A is supplied to the dairies by the Department of Food and Civil Supplies. It is not very expensive. As such as 3 1/2 litres of milk can be fortified with vitamin A at a cost of one paisa only. It costs only Rs. 32 or Rs. 33 to fortify 33 lakh litres of milk with vitamin A which is distributed to Dairies.

[*English*]

**SHRI ANADI CHARAN DAS:** May I know as to whether any proposal is there with the Government to issue orders to the dairies or processing units to the effect that they should not remove the fat content from the milk? Is there any such proposal with the Government?

[*Translation*]

**SHRI NATHU RAM MIRDHA:** As such Dairies comes under the Ministry of Agriculture. It is the task of the dairies to ascertain whether the milk contains fat or not or about other such matters. Some people prefer fat-free milk and that is why fat is removed from milk. This processing is very essential and it will not proper scientifically to stop this practice.

[*English*]

**SHRI BHAJAMAN BEHERA:** Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Minister replied that there is no procedure available to ascertain whether there is Vitamin A in the milk or not and that it cannot be ascertained. So, I request the Minister to have a scheme, to have some procedure to ascertain whether Vitamin A is there or not. There should be a procedure to ascertain this. If not, then there is no meaning in supplying Vitamin A with the milk. I would like to know from the hon. Minister as to whether he is contemplating to devise a

scheme to ascertain the content of the Vitamin A in the milk.

Secondly, in the rural areas when milk is supplied, they are bringing milk to the chilling plant and after chilling is over, they are taking out the fat and the only milk is supplied to the rural areas. But, now the Minister says that in the rural areas, unprocessed milk is available. That is not a fact. I would like to know whether the procedure can be regularised and some other mode of supply may be devised.

[*Translation*]

SHRI NATHU RAM MIRDHA: It is a very good procedure. There is no need to revise it. People should have confidence in the sincerity of the Government. We fortify milk with Vitamin-A at minimum cost. A layman cannot ascertain whether the milk contains Vitamin-A or not because he does not have facilities of a laboratory. But we carry out tests regularly. This task is undertaken with complete sincerity in all our Union Territory and State dairies.

SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA: You have said that you do not have laboratory facilities.

SHRI NATHU RAM MIRDHA: I said that laboratory facilities are not available with the people but we have it.

SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA: I would like to know the number of samples collected by the P.F.A., which is the department looking after prevention of food adulteration, from the D.M.S. and the Mother Dairy during the past three years and how many of them failed the test carried out for ascertaining the quantum of Vitamin A in them.

SHRI NATHU RAM MIRDHA: This question is connected with Shri Devilal's Ministry.

SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA: My submission is as to why milk is not fortified

with Vitamin-A before being sent for processing?

THE DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER AND MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI DEVI LAL): Mr. Speaker, Sir, we are engaged in a discussion with regard to Vitamins. Consumers want Vitamin-A whereas milkmen want proper price of the milk they sell. Therefore when the milkmen adds water to his milk, he gets the necessary vitamins by way of additional income from his milk. You can yourself ascertain as to how much vitamins has been added to your milk in the form of water because the poor milkman does not know as to what is the meaning of the term Vitamin? I was trying to imply that this practice of adding water to milk has been prohibited.

SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA: My point is that water is added to the skimmed milk supplied in Delhi. Are sample tested in this respect as well?

SHRI DEVI LAL: I would like to clarify that milk is tested before its procurement from the milkmen. That is why milkmen are afraid that the milk which they supply will be tested with the result that they supply pure milk to the Government dairies. Whatever water is added is done in Delhi. Similarly, the milkmen should get the permission of fortifying it with necessary vitamins.

SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA: This is of course what I am trying to know as to whether any test is undertaking in this regard or not?

[*English*]

DR. VENKATESH KABDE: I am afraid that we are deviating from the main thrust of the question. It is a fact that night-blindness is rampant in the rural areas. We are talking of supplying vitamin 'A' through the milk supplied by the dairies. Dairy milk is not consumed by the children and other people in the rural areas. The real problem is about the supply of vitamin 'A' in sufficient quantities to the people in the rural areas which can

be done by supplying concentrate of vitamin 'A' and also by giving injections of vitamin 'A'. I would like to bring it to the notice of the Minister that we do not supply dairy milk to the poor children in the rural areas to prevent night-blindness.

So, what are the measures being taken by the Government to supply the concentrate of vitamin 'A' in adequate quantities to the rural areas? There should be surveys to find out blindness among the rural folk. Unless there are surveys, we cannot give the concentrate of vitamin 'A'.

[*Translation*]

SHRI NATHU RAM MIRDHA: We get absolutely pure and natural milk of cows and buffaloes from the villages and it contains all the essential vitamins. There is no need to mix anything at all in it. One of the Departments of our Ministry looks after the nutrition aspect. It is necessary to pay attention to the fact that the food contains all the necessary vitamins. Units have been set up for this purpose. Mobile vans are also there and through which all possible assistance is provided to the people.

[*English*]

### **High House Rent in Metropolitan Cities**

\*230. SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that the house rent is going up phenomenally in the capital and the metropolitan cities;

(b) if so, the reasons thereof; and

(c) the steps Government propose to take to curb the high house rent? .

THE MINISTER OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The rise in rent is attributable to

general shortage of housing especially for rental purposes to low/middle income groups, sharp increase in demand for rental housing, and increase in cost of construction and land.

(c) Housing and Rent Control are State subjects. Remedial steps need to be taken at the State level to contain high rise in rents through legal and promotional measures.

SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR: Government have neatly evaded the question. Firstly, the rent control and housing policy, to a certain extent, are State subjects. But the Urban Development Ministry being the nodal Ministry on housing policy and allied subjects, is expected to have a clear idea on how the ever-increasing house rents in Delhi and other Metropolitan cities are to be curbed. Secondly, the Urban Development Ministry has a direct control over the Metropolitan cities and the UTs. Therefore, I would like to know from the Minister as to what are the exact steps or package of measures contemplated by the Government to curb the rise in rents, especially for lower and middle income groups of Government and private employees in the country.

SHRI MURASOLI MARAN: We all know that rents in private sector rental housing market are high. This is due to the simple reason of deficiency in supply in relation to a heavy demand. Naturally, we have to increase the housing stock as much as possible and at the same time, reduce the pressure on demand for private sector rental housing. The hon. Member was right while saying that this is the nodal Ministry. We are evolving a housing policy which is on the anvil and it will take care of all these things. The situation in Delhi is as critical as in other Metropolitan cities. One of the reasons for this situation is the Rent Control Act. In fact, at that time, it was thought that it would solve much of the rental housing problem. The Delhi Rent Control Act was amended and it has given exemption to any house which fetches rent beyond Rs. 3500/-. But we are yet to evaluate the impact of amendment. We are taking all these aspects into consid-