

the Calendar years 1989 and 1990, 865 Special Mentions were made in the Rajya Sabha out of which 548 matters have been replied to leaving a pendency of 317 as per the records of the Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs. The normal time-limit for sending replies to the Members is one month but in certain cases this time limit is not adhered to primarily because the information is required to be collected from various agencies including the State Governments.

(b) and (c) The Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs in its capacity as the coordinating agency has been sending demi-official reminders at the level of Secretary as well as Minister for expediting replies to the Members. This will continue to be done in future also.

#### **Development Grant to the Pharmacy Colleges in Gujarat**

1161. SHRI JITENDRABHAI LABHSHANKER BHATT: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) what are the norms for providing development grants by Central Government to the Pharmacy Colleges in the States:

(b) whether the Central Government have received any proposals for development grant in the year 1989-90 for Pharmacy Colleges in Gujarat State; and

(c) if so, by when a final decision is likely to be taken on these pending proposals?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (PROF. SHAKEELUR REHMAN): (a) There is no scheme of Government of India for providing development grant to the Pharmacy Colleges in the States. However, in accordance with the existing practice, block grant is given by the Planning Commission for development of Technical Education including Primary education at State level within their overall plan allocation.

(b) No, Sir.

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(c) Does not arise.

#### **Delay in commissioning of oil projects**

1162. SHRI JITENDRABHAI LABHSHANKER BHATT: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that delays in commissioning of oil projects have increased the costs of the projects by several crores of rupees as reported in the Deccan Herald of 19th October, 1990; and

(b) if so, what steps have been taken or are proposed to be taken against such delays?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM & CHEMICALS AND PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SATYA PRAKASH MALAVIYA): (a) Out of the four projects mentioned in the report in Deccan Herald of 19th October, 1990 cost escalation has taken place in three projects viz. Development of Heera Phase-II, V-C-K Pipeline Project and Marketing Facilities for LPG (Ph-UI). As far as Cambay basin Petroleum Development Project is concerned, the cost has come down from the original sanctioned cost.

(b) The implementation of the sanctioned projects is monitored monthly at various levels and action is taken to remove the bottlenecks which are noticed. Quarterly Performance Review meetings are also held in the Department with the concerned companies to expedite implementation and avoid cost and time overrun.

#### **Construction of foot bridge at DVC Navigation Canal**

1163. SHRI SAMAR MUKHERJEE: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether a proposal for construction of foot bridge at Pandua over the

DVC Navigation Canal to be located about ten miles from the location of Chachai bridge under construction of DVC, is under consideration of Govt.;

(b) if so, whether Govt. have prepared the feasibility report and by when the bridge is likely to be completed; and

(c) whether requests have been received for replacement of the existing damaged ferry boats and to increase the fleet of boats till such time the proposed foot bridge is constructed; if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (SHRI BABANRAO DHAKANE): (a) and (b) No scheme is pending with the Central Government for the construction of foot bridge at Pandua over the DVC Navigation Canal. The Damodar Valley Corporation had been receiving a number of requests in this regard and feasibility report was obtained by them. However, the Corporation is not in a position to take up such work due to financial constraints at present.

(c) The country boats are repaired/replaced as and when required. A bigger and better boat is being used since August, 1990.

#### **Lifting of ban on use of non-iodised salt**

1164. SHRI SAMAR MUKHERJEE: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state.

(a) whether the Academy of Nutrition Improvement, Nagpur has been urging for proper scientific study and debate on the question of iodisation of common salt;

(b) whether they have urged for lifting of ban on sale of common salt (non-iodised) in States/areas which are not identified as 'goitre prone' areas;

(c) whether the iodisation of salt and ban on sale of non-iodised salt cause

hike in the price of salt and making it beyond the reach of the poor; and

(d) whether Government are reviewing the policy on 'iodisation' of common salt in the face of strong opposition from nutritional experts and scientific community?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (PROF. SHA-KEELUR REHMAN): (a) and (b) Yes.

The Academy of Nutrition Improvement has been invited for debate on the question of Iodisation of salt at the highest level by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare. A scientific meeting of eminent experts in the field of Iodine --Deficiency Disorders was also held with the representatives of the Academy of Nutrition Improvement under the auspices of Indian Council of Medical Research where detailed discussions on various issues raised by the Academy were held. The Academy was informed that there were no adverse effects of Universal Salt Iodisation. It is only a preventive measure against IDD which is found to be prevalent in almost every region of the country, as revealed from the multicentric scientific studies conducted by the ICMR. This study supports the decision of the Govt. of India for Universal Salt Iodisation.

(c) The retail price of salt varies widely depending upon the price of salt in salt producing centres, quality of salt, whether powdered or not, cost of packing and repacking charges, freight, handling charges at both ends, shortage for godowns, wholesalers and retailers commission. It is the best quality of salt which is invariably iodised and packed in polythene bags for retail sale, and additional cost of iodisation is only 2 to 3 paise per kg. However more than 70 per cent of the Iodised salt is still being sold in lease and its retail price is comparable to that of common salt of similar quality.

(d) At present there is no proposal to review the policy of Universal