

make children susceptible to cancer; and

(b) if so, the steps taken by Government to avoid such threats?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE DEPARTMENT OF FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR):

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The exact etiology of cancer is still unknown. However, from time to time many factors such as heredity, age, virus, environmental pollution and occupations in chemical Industry have been incriminated as cause of cancer. Research in cancer is carried on by the Indian Council of Medical Research and the Regional Cancer Centres in the country. Environmental pollution is being looked after by the Ministry of Environment and the Ministry of Industry. To facilitate treatment of cancer, the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare have been sanctioning Central assistance to various institutions @ Rs. 50,000 per Centre for setting up of Early Cancer Detection Centres; and in the Seventh Five Year Plan stress is being laid on the imparting of education regarding this disease through primary and secondary prevention. Work on environmental and occupational carcinogenesis is also going on at the National Institute of Occupational Health (ICMR), Ahmedabad, as a part of their research programme.

#### Production of indigenous polio vaccine

1797. SHRI MUKHTIAR SINGH MALIK: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the press report which appeared in Hindustan Times of the 25th August, 1985 wherein it has been stated that an indigenous polio vaccine has successfully been developed by the State-owned

Haffkine Bio-Pharmaceutical Corporation Ltd., Bombay; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the time by when it will be made available for use by the general public?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Haffkine Bio-Pharmaceutical Corporation Limited, Bombay has developed an indigenous monovalent Oral Polio Vaccine Type I, II and III which has passed the critical tests as per WHO specifications conducted at the Corporation and the National Quality Control Laboratory at Central Research Institute, Kasauli. It is to be banded into Trivalent batch and tested again, after which the vaccine will be released for use.

#### Investigation into the missing ship M. V. Nitya Nanak

1798. SHRI LAL K. ADVANI:

SHRI KAILASH PATI  
MISHRA:

Will the Minister of TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the life of missing ship M. V. Nitya Nanak's pyrotechnics system for giving distress signals to nearby vessels had expired in 1984, and that the Maini Shipping Co. had written to the relatives of the missing crew that M. V. Nitya Nanak's non-arrival at Madras was due to bad weather; and

(b) if so, what are the facts investigated so far?

THE MINISTER OF TRANSPORT (SHRI BANSI LAL): (a) and (b) During the course of investigation under Section 360 of the Merchant Shipping Act by the Metropolitan Magistrate, it has been brought out that according to the records of safety equipment certificate which was issued to the ship M. V. Nitya Nanak on 31-3-1985 by Mercantile Marine Department, Tuticorin, the dates of