

tion in the eyes and/or respiratory problems. In some cases pulmonary oedema was also observed. Detailed investigations are still under progress.

No investigation has yet been carried out in India about the effect of MIC on plants and animal life.

(d) The liquid material in the tank was MIC containing tiny quantities of phosgene in parts per million. The deleterious effect can, therefore, be attributed to MIC.

गेहूँ और चीनी की हानि

294. श्री राम नरेश कुशवाहा : क्या रेल मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या यह सच है कि भागलपुर के रेलवे के उच्चाधिकारियों की लापरवाही के कारण भारतीय खाद्य निगम के लगभग 22 लाख रुपये के गेहूँ और चीनी में कोई जहरीली वस्तु मिल गई थी ; और

(ख) यदि हां, तो दोषी अधिकारियों के नाम क्या हैं और उनके विरुद्ध क्या कार्रवाई की गई है ?

रेल मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्री माधव राव सिधिया) : (क) जी, नहीं ।

(ख) प्रश्न नहीं उठता ।

Ban on Use of Colouring Agents in Food Stuffs

295. SHRI SATYA PRAKASH MALAVIYA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that despite the Prevention of Food Adulteration Act and the various steps taken by Government metanil yellow, lead chromite, iron oxide, copper sulphate and other prohibited colours are extensively used in food and other products and the mandatory use of colours carrying ISI mark is being flouted by the manufacturers/traders with impunity, thus endangering the health of consumers;

(b) whether in view of the experience gained and failure to strictly enforce the Prevention of Food Adulteration Act, Government propose to totally ban the use of all colouring agents in the larger interests of people's health as has been done in many of the western countries; and

(c) if the reply to part (b) above be in the negative, what are the reasons therefor and what stringent measures are proposed to be taken by Government to check food adulteration and the malpractices in the enforcement of Act?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH (SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA): (a) to (c) The State Governments have been advised to ensure that metanil yellow and other non-permitted colours are not used by the food industry.

The Central Committee for Food Standards has recommended that use of coal-tar food colours in food should be prohibited. The Central Committee for Food Standards in its meeting held on 24th and 25th August, 1984 recommended that the Food Laws & Food Additives Sub-Committee should suggest ways and means for implementing the above recommendation of the C.C.F.S.

Report of Medical Education Review Committee

296. SHRI SHRIKANT VERMA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to refer to reply to Starred Question 156 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 1st August, 1984 and state:

(a) whether Government have since taken any decision on the report of the Medical Education Review Committee, and

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard?