

[11 August, 2000]

RAJYA SABHA

order for closure of Tanneries which are not provided with treatment plants; and

(c) whether Government are also aware that in Collusion with officials of Pollution Control Board, the tanneries are allowed to function without the facilities of treatment plants?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BABU LAL MARANDI): (a) Yes, Sir. The Government is aware of the tannery pollution in North Arcot district of Tamil Nadu. The Loss of Ecology (Prevention and Payments of Compensation) Authority constituted by the Government for the purpose of determining compensation to the affected individuals has estimated an extent of 15,632 hectares of agricultural land damaged by pollution from tanneries in the district. As per the Director of Health Services of the State, no specific disease solely attributable to tannery pollution has been reported to the Government Hospitals in the District.

(b) and (c) Pursuant to the order of the Hon'ble Supreme Court, the Tamil Nadu Pollution Control Board has not issued consent to any tannery which has not been provided with treatment plant and, as such, no tannery is operating in the State without effluent treatment plant.

#### **Mortality rate versus iodine deficiency**

†2207. SHRI VIJAY SINGH YADAV: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the mortality rate has increased due to deficiency of iodised salt in the country;

(b) if so, the State-wise details of deaths due to the deficiency of iodised salt during the last three years; and

(c) the steps taken by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare to bring down the mortality rate, so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF

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†. Original notice of the Question was received in Hindi.

HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE [DR. (SHRIMATI) RITA VERMA]: (a) No, Sir. No incidence of death has been reported on account of non-consumption of edible iodised salt in the country.

(b) and (c) Do not arise in view of (a) above.

**Poor services in CGHS dispensaries**

2208. SHRI K.M. SAIFULLAH: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether All India Central Government Health Scheme Employees Association has complained about poor service in the dispensaries, inspite of steep increase in contribution rates; and

(b) if so, their main grievances and action taken to rectify them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE [DR. (SHRIMATI) RITA VERMA]: (a) No, Sir. No such complaint has been received from All India CGHS Employees Association.

(b) Does not arise.

**Tackling population growth**

2209. SHRI KARNENDU BHATTACHARJEE: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item, "U.N. report paints a grim picture", appearing in the Hindu dated 11th July, 2000;

(b) if so, Government's reaction thereto; and

(c) whether Government share the concern expressed in the UNDP's latest Human Development Report; if so, what steps are proposed to be taken to tackle the problem of burgeoning population growth in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE [DR. (SHRIMATI) RITA VERMA]: (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. India started its family planning programmes in 1952 and, has recorded the following progress: