

The States have asked their Drugs Inspectors to remain vigilant about the movement of spurious drugs and to undertake frequent sampling of drugs.

The testing facilities available with the Central Government at the Central Drugs Laboratory, Calcutta, the Central Indian Pharmacopoeia Laboratory, Ghaziabad and the Central Research Institute, Kasauli are placed at the disposal of the States and are being availed of by 21 States and Union Territories at present. The facilities are being further augmented so that a larger number of samples could be tested.

Financial Assistance is also being given to the States for augmenting their testing facilities under Centrally Sponsored Scheme. Under this Scheme 8 States are being assisted to establish combined Food and Drugs Laboratories, 3 States in the setting up wings for testing of foods or drugs, as the case may be, and 12 States to purchase sophisticated Testing Equipments.

Four Zonal Offices of the Central Drugs Standard Control Organisation have been set up at Bombay, Calcutta, Madras and Ghaziabad to maintain a close liaison between the Central and State Organizations and to ensure uniform enforcement of the Act throughout the country. These Zonal Offices also have Drugs Inspectors attached to them and these Inspectors carry out joint inspections of premises of drug manufacturers along with the State Authorities to ensure that they conform to the Standards laid down under the Law.

Training programmes for Drug Inspectors are regularly organised by the Central Drug Control Organisation. This is a running programme and State Governments have been availing themselves of this facility.

The penalty for this offence is imprisonment for a period of not less than one year which may extend to ten years. The courts have, however, discretionary powers to award lesser punishment than the minimum.]

Production of Malted Milkfood

*326. SHRI ALEXANDER WARJRI
SHRI KAMESHWAR SINGH:
SHRI T. ANJIAH:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the production of malted milkfood by the indigenous industry during the year 1977-78 was 1600 tonnes as compared to the production of 16000 tonnes by the foreign multinationals for the same year;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the production of malted milkfood by the indigenous industry is declining gradually; and

(c) whether Government propose to put a blanket ban on the expansion of the production capacity for malted milkfood in the industrial licences of the foreign multinationals in order to protect the indigenous industry; if so, what are the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION (SHRI SURJIT SINGH BARNALA): (a) During the year 1977 the production of malted milkfood by indigenous manufacturers was 1665 tonnes against 15,941 tonnes by the foreign multinationals.

(b) The production of malted milkfood by the Indian Companies declined in 1976 as compared to 1975. But the production increased during 1977.

(c) While there is no reservation under existing Law in favour of any particular sector in respect of malted milkfood, it is Government's policy to encourage further expansion of production capacity in the public and co-operative sectors.