

Landslides in North Cachar District of Assam

*5. DR. V. A. SEYID MUHAMMAD :

SHRI N. P. CHAUDHARY:

DR. R. K. CHAKRABARTI:

SHRI NABIN CHANDRA
BURAGOHAIN:

SHRI K. B. CHETTRI:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) The number of persons who died as a result of heavy landslides on the railway track embankments in North Cachar District of Assam due to heavy rainfalls during the month of June last;

(b) the steps that are being taken to award compensation and other facilities to the dependents of the deceased; and

(c) the measures that are proposed to be taken to prevent recurrence of landslides in the said region?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MOHD. SHAFI QURESHI): (a) Nil.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Permanent remedial measure to prevent recurrence of the landslide is being considered by the Railway in consultation with the Research Design and Standards Organisation and Geological Survey of India.

Mixing of Tetraethyl lead in petrol

*6. SHRI D. N. DWIVEDI: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Govt. propose to take any action against oil companies which mix tetraethyl lead in petrol;

(b) whether Govt. are aware that tetraethyl lead is a poison which causes brain damage and a brain disease called dyslexia; and

(c) what procedures have been adopted by Govt. for checking the suitability of processes involved in the manufacture of toxic petro-chemicals from the health point of view before allowing manufacturers of these products to market them?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS (SHRI D. K. BOROOAH) : (a) and (b) Some quantities of Tetraethyl Lead are mixed with petrol to the petroleum refineries for bringing the octane number of petrol to the required levels. The mixing of Tetraethyl Lead which is an imported chemical is made only in the refineries and not at other selling points. The quantities of Tetraethyl Lead are always kept below the levels prescribed by the Indian Standards Institution. On account of these measures though Tetraethyl Lead is a poisonous chemical compound, there is no adverse effect on public health on account of the use of Tetraethyl Lead in the manufacture of petrol.

(c) Manufacture, storage and sale of toxic pesticides and plant protection chemicals are regulated by rules under the Insecticides Act. The National Committee on Environment Planning and Coordination screens and approves manufacture of toxic pesticides. There are, however, no administrative procedures for determining the suitability of technologies to be adopted for manufacture of toxic petrochemicals.

Misuse of Government machinery in the recent Kamataka elections

*7. SHRI VEERENDRA PATIL: Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE and COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Election Commission has received complaints regarding misuse of Government machinery and other irregularities committed by the Chief Minister and other Ministers of Kamataka State