DR. Bhai Mahavir: Sir, is it one of the terms of the agreement which has been entered into with the contractors by the DDA that in case the DDA equipment is not used or is found to be out of order, they would be able to use the equipment of their own and that comes to a much higher rate which they can charge? Is this one clause which is said to be responsible for the equipment of the DDA remaining idle and some people manoeuvring to cheat the DDA of huge sums of money through this? And, Sir, is it a fact that in order to expose this, one forman, Shri S. L. Gupta, tried and he was sacked, because he was complaining against corruption? Sir, I have his letter, the letter from Shri Gupta. He has said that if a scientist commits suicide only then our Government listens and it is a very pathetic thing. He has also said, "I do not know how I am alive so far". Sir, has it been brought to the notice of the Government that same forman has been sacked for having exposed these corrupt practices in the DDA and, if so, what action has been taken in the matter?

Dr. Debiprasad Chattopadhyaya: Sir, I did not like to bring in the name of the man the honourable Member has referred to. His case is only coincidentally related to the affair. But, Sir, his service was terminated not because, as he says, he raised all these issues. Independent of that it was found that his service which was purely temporary was not required and was terminated on the ground. It was no longer necessary. He was given extension when it was necessary. But then he could not be provided with a suitable job. So, it has nothing to do with this.

DR. Bhai Mahavir: Temporary for fifteen years?

MR. CHAIRMAN: No. He was given extension.

DR. Bhai Mahavir: How long 'can he be a temporary man, Sir?

MR. CHAIRMAN: You cannot put that question. He says that he was given extension also.

DR. Bhai Mahavir: But, Sir, in order to explain the whole thing... (Interruptions)... 

MR. CHAIRMAN: No, please. Next question.

*474. [The questioner (Dr. 7. A. Ahmad) was absent. For answer, vide col. 45 infra]

*475. [The questioner (Shrimati Pratibha Singh) was absent. For answer, vide col. 47 infra.]

*476. [The questioners (Sarvashri M. K. Mohta, K. C. Panda, Chandra-mouli Jagarlamudi, Dwijendwlal Sen Gupta, Thillai Villalan and Dr. K. Mathew Kurian) were absent. For answer vide col. 46 infra.]

FOOD ADULTERATION IN DELHI

*477. SHRI BalaChandra Men-NON: SHRI Sanat Kumar RAHA:

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY PLANNING be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a random survey recently conducted in Delhi on food adulteration had revealed that 50 per cent of the collected samples were adulterated; and

(b) if so, what are the steps Government propose to take to stop food adulteration?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY PLANNING (SHRI A. K. Kisku): (a) and (b). A statement containing the information is laid on the Table of the Sabha.

t The question was actually asked on the floor of the House by Shri Sanat Kumar Raha.
STATEMENT

(a) The samples of a few items of food like spices, wheat products, confectionery, tea and sugar were collected at random in Delhi prior to January, 1972 and test results showed that approximately 38.5% of the samples were found to be not conforming to the prescribed standards.

(b) The provisions of the Prevention of Food Adulteration Act have already been made stringent and the States asked to ensure proper enforcement of the Act.

A Central Unit has been set up to check the menace of food adulteration along with the State Health Authorities concerned. The Unit is mainly concerned with the functions prescribed in Rule 9 of the Prevention of Food Adulteration Rules in respect of inter-State offences and helps in giving technical guidance to State Governments.

A new Food Research and Standardisation Laboratory is being established at Ghaziabad.

The training of Food Analysts has been started at the Central Food Laboratory, Calcutta. The Food Inspectors are being trained at the Directorates of Health Services in the respective States.

SHRI A. K. KISKU: Sir, random samples of a few items of food like spices, wheat products, confectionery, tea and sugar, etc. were collected and we found from the test results that approximately 38.5% of the samples were found to be adulterated.

SHRI SANAT KUMAR RAHA: My question was how many samples were collected and out of them how many were tested.

SHRI A. K. KISKU: Sir, if I may be permitted, I will give the figures from 1967 onwards, that is, figures relating to the samples collected:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Number of Samples</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1967</td>
<td>3,177</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1968</td>
<td>3,982</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1969</td>
<td>4,045</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1970</td>
<td>2,328</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1971</td>
<td>1,688</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The percentage of samples found adulterated from 1967 onwards were:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1967</td>
<td>19.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1968</td>
<td>16.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1969</td>
<td>14.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1970</td>
<td>18.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1971</td>
<td>19%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

SHRI SANAT KUMAR RAHA: My second question is, after the proper enforcement of the Food Adulteration Act, how many cases have been detected and in how many cases action has been taken.

SHRI UMA SHANKAR DIKSHIT: My colleague has given the figures relating to the number of samples drawn. He has also given the percentage of samples found adulterated. I do not know what more information the hon. Member wants.

SHRI SANAT KUMAR RAHA: I wanted to know the number of cases where action has been taken against the persons concerned.
SHRI UMASHANKAR DIKSHIT: This information had been given in reply to an earlier question. I do not have the figure just now.

MR. CHAIRMAN: He will place the information on the Table of the House.

SHRI UMASHANKAR DIKSHIT: Does he want the figure for the last year or for how many years?

SHRI SANAT KUMAR RAHA: For the last three consecutive years.

SHRI K. CHANDRASEKHARAN: For some years there is practically no article of food in this country which is not adulterated. Compared to the magnitude of the problem and the seriousness of the question that has been asked, the answer is only a routine and formal one. It really does not touch even the fringe of the problem. May I know as to whether effective steps are being taken in regard to adulteration of food, its discovery and the punishment of adulterators, at the level of producers, manufacturers and whole-sellers. I am particularly asking this question because it has been found in the working of the Food Adulteration Act that small shopkeepers and retailers are often proceeded against and punished. That does not really solve the problem.

SHRI UMASHANKAR DIKSHIT: This is a rather complicated matter. The machinery of detection is in the hands of municipal authorities. Their inspectors go and check these samples. Evidence also has to be given in these cases. In some municipalities, Sanitary Inspectors are given additional charge of this work. They are not able to cope with this work. Another difficulty is that the number of well equipped laboratories for analysing the samples is not adequate. Government of India has decided to increase the number of Central laboratories for this purpose. Prosecutions have been launched and punishment up to 6 months had been provided in 1964. Of course, courts can give reasons for not giving such punishment, also. Punishment is still not a sufficient deterrent and adulteration is still found to be a profitable business. Moreover, to some extent, I am sorry to say, it is also a matter of national character. But I have given an assurance in the other House in the last session that we are considering measures for further strengthening the penal provisions of the Food Adulteration Act. So far as punishment to the manufacturers/whole-sellers is concerned, the manufacturers get away because they supply most of the foodstuffs in bulk. You can charge the retailers then and there. If a bulk is taken up and it is opened, then it is the retailer who really comes into difficulty. But the question how to rope in the manufacturer where he is really the culprit, will be considered when the next amendment of the Act is considered.

Whether it is a fact that 50% of the collected samples were adulterated.
The samples of a few items of food like spices, wheat products, confectionery, tea and sugar were collected at random in Delhi prior to January, 1972 and test results showed that approximately 38.5% of the samples were found to be not conforming to the prescribed standards.

**SHRI SHYAMLAL GUPTA:** May I know whether the Government is contemplating to provide some machinery to bring Inspectors to book, who are mostly dishonest?

**BHI UMA SHANKAR DEVI:** The Government may be considering the supply of some machinery to bring Inspectors to book, who are mostly dishonest.
SHRI N. K. SHEJWALKAR:
SHRI J. P. YADAV:
SHRI MAN SINGH VARMA:
DR. BHAI MAHAVIR:
SHRI PREM MANOHAR:
SHRI O. P. TYAGI:

Will the Minister of PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) the number of places where the rail and road routes touch the coast line of the country and the total number of major ports and minor ports, situated along the Indian coast; and

(b) what are the details of the plans for the uniform development of these ports?

The question was actually asked on the floor of the House by Shri J P Yadav.

*English translation.*