

MR. CHAIRMAN : That is the end of the dialogue.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA : I do not want to have a dialogue. It is our privilege. On a point of privilege . . .

(Interruptions)

SEVERAL HON. MEMBERS : Obey the Chair.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please. Delete everything that Mr. Bhupesh Gupta says after this.

PANDIT S. S. N. TANKHA : May I know what are the assets and liabilities of the Company ?

SHRI RAJ BAHADUR : Certain tentative figures have been given to us. It will not be proper for me to disclose them at this moment, but the fact of the matter is that since there is difference of opinion between us and the representative of the Company in regard to the actual value of the assets and liabilities, we have said that we will not take over all the liabilities particularly if the liabilities outweigh the assets. That is why I said that it will not be in the public interest to disclose at the moment that this is the quantum of liabilities and this is the quantum of assets

MR. CHAIRMAN : Next question

COLOURING AGENT FOR VANASPATI

*71. SHRI N. SRI RAMA REDDY : Will the Minister of FOOD AND AGRICULTURE be pleased to state whether a suitable colouring agent for vanaspati has been found ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND AGRICULTURE (SHRI D. R. CHAVAN) : No, Sir.

SHRI N. SRI RAMA REDDY : I would like to know what efforts have been

made so far with regard to finding out a suitable colouring material for vanaspati. Are there any schemes taken in hand to find out a suitable colouring agent for vanaspati ?

SHRI C. SUBRAMANIAM : A Committee of experts had been appointed in 1960 and that Committee is going through this problem.

SHRIMATI TARA RAMCHANDRA SATHE : May I know whether turmeric powder has been tried to mix with vanaspati. Turmeric powder also gives some colour to vanaspati. May I know whether it has been found good or not ?

SHRI C. SUBRAMANIAM : The Committee is considering various suggestions, including the suggestion which the hon. Member has made. As a matter of fact, a report has been drawn up and that report is under discussion between the members because there is some difference of opinion. I am hoping that the report will be available very soon. Then we will be able to know what results have been achieved on account of the deliberations of that Committee.

SHRI N. SRI RAMA REDDY : We are not interested in the report. My question is what efforts have been so far made or what efforts are being made. We have a big research department. The hon. Minister has a very big research department or section under his control under the Indian Council of Agricultural Research, doing every bit of research. They have not been able to do anything so far, ever since this subject was raised years back.

SHRI C. SUBRAMANIAM : The Indian Council of Agricultural Research does not have any department which can deal with this matter. It relates to the chemical properties of the various admixtures which will have to be added to this. That is why a high-power Committee consisting of scientists—not our administrators but scientists—has been appointed. That Committee has been deliberating for the last five years and I am told that they are

finding it very difficult to find a colouring medium which will stand the test and which will be satisfactory. That is why there has been a good deal of difference of opinion. As I have already stated, they have drawn up an interim report and that is under discussion now

SHRI T. S. PATTABIRAMAN : May I know whether the Food and Technological Laboratory at Mysore has been entrusted with the problem? If not, why not?

SHRI C. SUBRAMANIAM : As a matter of fact, the former Director of that Institute is also a member of this committee.

SHRI C. D. PANDE : May I know whether Government is satisfied that the use of vanaspati ghee is so harmful for human consumption that it is necessary to find out a colouring agent; secondly, whether after colouring the vanaspati Government will satisfy this House that there is no other ingredient which will be adulterated with ghee?

SHRI C. SUBRAMANIAM : This question is concerned with not the deleterious effects of the use of vanaspati but for the purpose of avoiding adulteration of ghee with vanaspati. This is a limited thing, and it is under consideration whether any such colouring matter could be obtained. The second thing is, certainly if vanaspati is not available, there might be other material available for that. But that does not come under this.

श्री रामकुमार भुवालका : क्या मंत्री जी यह बतायेंगे कि इस वनस्पति घी में भी कोई चीज़ मिलाई जाती है, मिक्स की जाती है ?

SHRI C. SUBRAMANIAM : Vanaspati is properly canned, sealed and sold. Therefore, there is no question of adulterating vanaspati itself, but vanaspati is being used for the purpose of adulterating pure ghee. That is the problem. That is

why we are trying to find out a colouring material which would immediately detect the adding of vanaspati to ghee.

PROF. B. N. PRASAD : In view of the fact that the Committee of scientists which has been set up by the Ministry of Food has already taken five years over finding a suitable colouring material, is the hon. Minister satisfied with the work of that Committee? Does he not feel that the Committee is taking too much time and that it is necessary that a thing of this type should be finalised in a smaller period of time?

SHRI C. SUBRAMANIAM : I agree that they have taken an unduly long time, but now they have reached the stage of submitting a report, and I am hastening them to submit their report as early as possible. As soon as that report is available, then perhaps we may be able to assess the quality of work done during these five years.

SHRI ARJUN ARORA : May I know if the Government will consider the advisability of appointing a committee, a small one, to find out why this Committee has not been able to find out a proper colouring medium during five years.

(No reply)

PANDIT S. S. N. TANKHA : Has the attention of the hon. Minister been drawn to a report published in the Press very recently that a Professor of the Banaras Hindu University has discovered a colouring material suitable for mixing with vanaspati?

SHRI C. SUBRAMANIAM : I have not seen this report. Certainly I shall pursue this line.

IMPORTS OF GRAM FROM PUNJAB INTO DELHI

***72. DIWAN CHAMAN LALL :** Will the Minister of FOOD AND AGRICULTURE be pleased to state the reasons for which the proposal made by the Government of Punjab to deal with the imports of gram