

Sabha on 18th June, 1962 the matter requires detailed consideration in consultation with various parties. The question of issuing the notification is under the active consideration of the Government but it may be some time before the notification is issued.

INSECT IN MILK BOTTLE

*66. SHRI R. P. N. SINHA: Will the Minister of FOOD AND AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that an insect was found recently in a sealed bottle of milk sold at a Delhi Milk Scheme booth; and

(b) if so, what steps have been taken against person or persons responsible for maintaining hygienic conditions at the source from where these milk-bottles are sent out?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD (SHRI A. M. THOMAS):
(a) Yes.

(b) No action has been taken against any official of the Delhi Milk Scheme, as the presence of the insect in the bottle in question was attributable to accident and not to negligence on any body's part.

RECOVERY OF COST OF ELECTRIC INSTALLATION FROM RAILWAY EMPLOYEES

*67. SHRI P. K. KUMARAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the rules under which the cost of electric installation is recovered from the salaries of railway employees whose quarters are fitted with electric lights on different railways; and

(to) since the cost of electric installation is recovered from the employees, whether they are permitted to take away the electric fittings when they vacate such quarters?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SHAH NAWAZ KHAN): (a) and (b) A statement is laid on the Table of the Sabha.

STATEMENT

(a) The relevant rules are paras 1910, 1911 and 1912 of the Indian Railway Code for the Engineering Department under which the cost of electric installation and fittings, including the cost of electric bulbs supplied as first equipment, is merged in, and forms part of, the total cost of quarters for the purpose of fixing their assessed rent. Assessed rent is computed at 6 per cent of capital cost of quarters excluding the cost of land. It is not that the cost of electric installation itself is recovered from the salary of railway employees.

(b) The cost of electric installation is thus not collected from the employees, and, therefore, there is no question of permitting them to take away the electric fittings when they vacate such quarters. The cost of subsequent replacements of electric bulbs is charged to the occupants, but the employees are not permitted to take away such bulbs put in at their cost, as the replacements arise out of wastage through use of the initial equipment provided at railway cost.

PROMOTION OF RESERVATION CLERKS

*63. SHRI P. K. KUMARAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) what is the channel of promotion for the category of Reservation Clerks on the Indian Railways; and

(b) the number of Reservation Clerks who have been promoted to such promotion grades during the last 5 years and what percentage this number bears to the total number of such employees?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI S. V

RAMASWAMY): (a) and (b) The information is not readily available and will be laid on the Table of the Sabha in due course.

CHANGE IN DUTY HOURS OF NURSING STAFF IN GOVERNMENT HOSPITALS OF DELHI

*69. SHRI LOKANATH MISRA: Will the Minister of HEALTH be pleased to state whether there has been a change in the duty-hours scheduled for the nursing staff in the Government hospitals of Delhi from the 1st March, 1962; and if so, how it differs from the previous one?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH (DR. SUSHILA NAYAR) : There has been no change except that the span of night duty of nurses in the Willingdon Hospital and Nursing Home, New Delhi, has been changed from one week to one month from March, 1962.

REPRESENTATIONS FOR AMENDING THE PREVENTION OF FOOD ADULTERATION ACT

*70. SHRI BABUBHAI CHINAI: Will the Minister of HEALTH be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received any representations detailing the difficulties and inconveniences encountered by trade in the functioning of the Prevention of Food Adulteration Act, 1954;

(b) if the answer to part (a) above be in the affirmative, whether any suggestions have been made for amending the said Act; and if so, what are the details thereof; and

(c) whether Government have taken any decision on the representations for amending the said Act?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH (DR. SUSHILA NAYAR): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) A statement containing the requisite information is laid on the Table of the Sabha.

STATEMENT

A representation has been received from the Indian Produce Association, Calcutta, containing a suggestion that the provisions of section 11(5) of the Prevention of Food Adulteration Act should be amended suitably so as to provide that destruction of goods is ordered by any Court only as a last resort when no alternative non-edible use of the adulterated stuff could be found out.

Under the said section 11(5) the following four alternatives are open to the magistrate to order the disposal of adulterated food—

He may order it

- (a) to be forfeited to the local authority, or
- (b) to be destroyed at the cost of the owner or the person from whom it was seized so as to prevent its being used as human food, or
- (c) to be so disposed of as to prevent its being again exposed for sale or used for food under its deceptive name, or
- (d) to be returned back to the owner for being sold under its appropriate name, after taking adequate guarantee from the owner.

The above provisions of the Act are considered adequate for the disposal of the adulterated food and no amendment to these provisions of the Act is considered necessary.

It has also been suggested by the above mentioned Association that the standards of quality prescribed for mustard seeds in the Prevention of Food Adulteration Rules, 1955 should be revised as the limits of foreign matter etc. laid down therein were too low and were too difficult to be complied with. Similar suggestion has also been made by Shri P. D. Himatsingka, M.P.