

Manufacturing of banned substances

1125. SHRI MANOJ BHATTACHARYA: Will the MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a number of small and loss-making pharmaceutical companies are making up losses by manufacturing banned substances like Amphetamine-treated stimulants whose surreptitious consumption and demand especially among the affluent class is rising; if so, the details thereof; and

(b) the steps taken or proposed to be taken to control the activities of such spurious companies who are duping the Government?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS): (a) and (b) No, Sir. Government has not received any specific information that the loss making pharmaceutical companies in general are indulging in the manufacture of banned substances like amphetamine treated stimulants. However, recently, a case in Hyderabad has been reported where a small-scale manufacturer was found clandestinely manufacturing banned narcotic drug substances such as "Ecstasy" and other similar types of drugs for export. The Department of Revenue Intelligence and the narcotic control Bureau are investigating the case.

Naming of Mumbai Local Stations in Urdu

†1126. SHRI ABU ASIM AZMI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether he is aware that Mumbai is one of the fifty minority dominated districts of the country where fifty percent of population speak and understand Urdu language and names of the stations of local trains used to be written in Urdu;

(b) whether it is a fact that these names in Urdu have been removed gradually during the last few years;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

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(d) whether he would issue instruction for writing the names of these stations of local trains in Mumbai in Urdu;

(e) if so, by when; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) to (f) As per the information provided by the Registrar General of India, according to Census of India, 1991 only 12.1 % of the total population of Mumbai reported Urdu as their mother-tongue. As per the language policy of the Central Government, the Station Name Boards are to be displayed in order of Regional Language followed by Hindi and English in non-Hindi speaking areas. Thus, station name boards in Mumbai are displayed in Regional Language (Marathi), Hindi and English. Further Urdu has also not been accorded the official status of second language of this State.

Strengthening Railway Bridges

1127. SHRI R. K. ANAND: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a large number of existing railway bridges are between 80 to 100 years old and were constructed to handle only lighter standard of loading than prevalent, *i.e.* there has been tremendous growth of load both in freight as well as passenger traffic since the construction of these bridges;

(b) if so, the steps taken to strengthen the existing railway bridges to handle heavier load of freight and passengers; and

(c) the steps taken to replace these railway bridges?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) It is a fact that about 75600 bridges out of 1,19,984 bridges are between 80 to 100 years old and were constructed to handle loading prevalent at the time of their construction.

(b) and (c) In case of introduction of heavier axle load in a particular section, thorough study is carried out for suitability of existing bridges. If required, bridges are rehabilitated/rebuilt to bear the heavier axle load of freight/passenger trains.