

that the House behaved in this manner. And my request, my humble request... *(Interruptions)*... with folded hands, is this. Kindly maintain decorum in the House... *(Interruptions)*... There are no two opinions *(Interruptions)*... You cannot hold the House to ransom... *(Interruptions)*... you are all senior Members... *(Interruptions)*... You cannot hold the House to ransom... *(Interruptions)*... Now, Question No. 101... *(Interruptions)*

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Ban on vaccines and medicines based on human blood

*101. SHRI MURLIDHAR
CHANDRAKANT
BHANDARE :

SHRI DEBA PRASAD
RAY :†

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

(a) whether it is a fact that Government had recently banned the production of all blood-based vaccines and medicines: if so, the reasons therefor;

(b) whether Government are considering the withdrawal of the ban on the manufacture of vaccines and medicines, including tonics, based on animal blood; and

(c) if so, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI RAFIQUE ALAM) : (a) Government has not banned the production of drugs derived from human blood. However, in order to ensure safety of blood products, manufacturers are not required to test each bleeding pooled plasma and the final product for freedom from HIV-antibodies. They are

also required to adopt suitable manufacturing process which would ensure that the final product is free from viruses.

(b) and (c) There is no ban on the manufacture of drugs derived from animal blood.

SHRI DEBA PRASAD RAY:

Mr. Chairman, Sir, during the last session... *(Interruptions)*... in one of the Special Mentions... *(Interruptions)* I had stated... *(Interruptions)*... that the drug... *(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Just a minute... *(Interruptions)*... The House should not be held to ransom... *(Interruptions)*... If it were possible... *(Interruptions)*... for any Member to ask the Prime Minister to resign, then that is not parliamentary... *(Interruptions)*... There is nothing parliamentary in it... *(Interruptions)*...

SHRI DEBA PRASAD RAY:

The Minister has stated in his reply that there is no ban on manufacturing drugs from animal blood. Ever since this phenomenon has cropped up, a search has also been made to find out the genesis of this disease. We all know that there is a school of thought which strongly believes that this disease has originated from Africa. The Africans are prone to have physical contact with the monkeys and they have developed this disease because it has originally emanated from the monkeys. In the light of these observations, how can the Ministry rule out so soon the possibility of having the disease transmitted from animal blood to human blood? Moreover, the animal blood is always collected from the slaughterhouses which are very dirty and filled with all kinds of germs. So I want to know from the hon. Minister whether his Ministry is contemplating to prepare certain guidelines for the manufacturers which they would follow for preparing drugs from the animal blood.

(Interruptions)

†The Question was actually asked on the floor of the House by Shri Deba Prasad Ray.

SHRI M.S. GURUPADA-SWAMY: Since you are not allowing us to make our submissions and since Mr. Rajiv Gandhi has lost his moral authority to continue in Parliament, I ask my Members to walk out.

(At this stage, some hon. Members left the Chamber.)

SHRI RAFIQUE ALAM: Sir, three batches of AIDS detecting kits manufactured by a German firm were found to be defective and have been withdrawn from the market. Forty-five units belonging to these batches had been imported in India by M/s Hoechst Limited, Bombay. The firm sold these kits in the market after carrying out visual tests and without informing that there might be some problem with the kits. The Licence granted to M/s Hoechst, Bombay, for the import of AIDS Testing Kits under the Drugs and Cosmetics Rules has been cancelled. The following instructions have been issued to all the Import Officers:

- (1) To check if the importers of AIDS Kits have a certificate issued by the manufacturing firm stating that the kits are of standard quality and have been duly tested by them.
- (2) The importing firm should submit a certificate issued by the Drugs Controller or equivalent authority of the importing country stating that the manufacturers of AIDS Kits are approved manufacturers in the country.

SHRI DEBA PRASAD RAY: You have not given the answer to the other questions which I put.

MR. CHAIRMAN: You put your second supplementary.

SHRI DEBA PRASAD RAY: Sir, I am putting my second supplementary.

Sir, my first supplementary had three aspects—whether the drugs have been destroyed, what the quantum was of the drugs destroyed and whether the drugs have already come to the market, manufactured by the indigenous manufacturers after following the guidelines set by the Government in this regard. Out of three questions, Sir, he has given reply to one. After he gives replies to those two, I will put my second supplementary.

SHRI RAFIQUE ALAM: Sir, so far as destroying is concerned, it has come to our notice that all the drugs which have been found infected have been destroyed.

श्री देब प्रसाद राय : वह दवाई खा गई है क्या ? बाजार में क्या मिल रहा है ? ... (व्यवधान) ...

श्री रफीक आलम : बाजार में जो इम्पोर्टेड है, वह मिल रही है ।

SHRI DEBA PRASAD RAY: Sir, I will now put my second supplementary. Sir, in reply to parts (b) and (c) of my question, he has said that there is no ban on the manufacture of drugs derived from the animal blood. Sir, as you all know, after this dangerous phenomenon has been witnessed in different parts of the world, a search was also made to find out as to how this particular dangerous disease has cropped up. And there is a school of thought which strongly believes that this particular disease has really originated from Africa. And in Africa it has originated because it has basically emanated from the monkeys. The Africans are prone to have physical contact with the monkeys and they developed it. And in the process, it has been spread in the other parts of the world. So, how can the Ministry or the Government rule out this possibility so soon that the

animal blood does not have any possibility of transmitting diseases to human beings? Sir, you know actually the situation in all the slaughter houses in the country. Those are filthy, unclean, and those are filled with all kinds of germs. Blood is directly collected from the slaughter houses and that is utilised for the manufacture of drugs. I want to know from the hon. Minister whether the Government, taking into consideration these aspects, is contemplating to prepare the guidelines for the manufacturers to follow while preparing the drugs from the animal blood also.

SHRI RAFIQUE ALAM:

Sir, so far as Africa is concerned, I have no knowledge. But not a single case like that has been detected in India from animal blood. If such cases come, we will take note of it.

SHRI ANAND SHARMA:

Sir, this question relates to a very serious matter. In the last session also, this question had come up, and it had emanated because of the discovery of certain vaccines, particularly immuno-globulin, at the All India Institute of Medical Sciences and various other hospitals in Delhi which were found to contain AIDS anti-bodies. Later on, similar discoveries were there in other parts of the country, including the province of West Bengal where hundreds of ignorant people, pregnant women and small children were given this vaccine. I had asked this question, and I would like to know from the Minister whether you have identified all the people in the country who have been given these vaccines from the Government hospitals and the number of such people, and whether they have been isolated and informed about what has been done to them. Secondly, how many of them have shown the signs of the disease and what measures are contemplated for their rehabilitation?

Lastly, keeping in view this terrible tragedy and the fact that the vaccine manufacturers have been absolutely callous, what action has been taken against them and is there any directive to all the blood banks and all the hospitals in the country to examine the donated blood both for AIDS virus as well as for the hepatitis?

SHRI RAFIQUE ALAM:

So far as the AIDS cases are concerned, the number of cases tested is 3.15 lakhs. (*Interruptions*). The number of persons found positive of FIB infection is 1290. The number of AIDS cases reported is 29. Indians who have AIDS is 18 and foreigners 11. The number of persons who died from AIDS disease is 26 and 3 are still under treatment.

SHRI ANAND SHARMA:

My question was different. (*Interruptions*).

MR. CHAIRMAN: Mr. Sharma

your question does not arise. But because it was important I just permitted you to say something. Shri Ghulam Rasool Matto.

SHRI ANAND SHARMA:

Sir, will the hon. Minister tell us that those who have been given this vaccine they will be identified and he will inform us what action has been taken?

MR. CHAIRMAN: That he will do.

SHRI GHULAM RASOOL

MATTO: Mr. Chairman Sir, it is very good to get alarmed at the AIDS infected vaccines and to take necessary measures. But I read in a foreign newspaper that because of this scare thousands of people who could be saved by transfusion of plasma and other blood based things are not being given the necessary blood and as a result of which they are dying. I would like to ask the Minister what effective steps have been taken to make available this

blood plasma and other things to the public at the present moment.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Blood plasma, you have not stopped. Human blood plasma you have not stopped.

SHRI RAFIQUE ALAM: We have not stopped but the thing is that...

MR. CHAIRMAN: This is about human blood. This question is about human blood... (Interruptions).

SHRI RAFIQUE ALAM: I was just telling you...

MR. CHAIRMAN: You answer through the Chair.

SHRI RAFIQUE ALAM : ... that the blood plasma...

MR. CHAIRMAN: You are supposed to answer through the Chair.

SHRI RAFIQUE ALAM: Sir, the thing is that so far as the question of giving blood transfusion is concerned, we have a compulsory provision that no blood transfusion should be made until that is free from virus.

SHRI GHULAM RASOOL MATTO: Where there is a need, how do you make available to the person concerned?

SHRI RAFIQUE ALAM: After the tests have declared it safe.

श्री सुरेश चव्वाले : नभापति जी, मैं आपके माध्यम से मंत्री जी से जानना चाहता हूँ कि ऐसे कितने प्रकरण प्रकाश में आए हैं या ऐनिमल बेस वैक्सीन या मैडिसन के आधार पर आइडेंटिफाई किए गए हैं और उन पर क्या कार्यवाही की गई? साथ ही क्या कुछ ऐसे डानिक और वैक्सीन बचाने पर भी सरकार विचार कर रही है और उनका उत्पादन बढ़ाने पर विचार कर रही है जो लाभदायक सिद्ध हो सकती है?

श्री रफाक़ अलम : मैंने पहले ही कहा था कि पोस्म क्लड में कोई इन्फेक्शन नहीं हुआ है, अभी तक हमारी नालें में नहीं आया है। हाँ वह इंसान क्लड का सवाल है उसके लिए हमने आलरेडी आर्डर कर दिया है कि अब तक फुल्ली टेस्टेड नहीं होगा जब तक उसका मैन्यू-फैक्चर नहीं दिया जायगा।

SHRIMATI SYEDA ANWARA TAIMUR: Sir, the hon. Minister has stated that blood based life-saving drugs which have been found to be harmful after the tests, have been destroyed. Then I would like to know from the hon. Minister what steps have been taken to make up the shortage due to the destruction of these vaccines and medicines.

SHRI RAFIQUE ALAM: Sir, we have imported medicines quite sufficiently. So, there is no complaint that there is no medicine available. We have imported blood products free from virus.

Setting up of a Unit for producing Oral Polio Vaccine at Chola, U.P.

*102. **SHRI HARI SINGH:** Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Bharat Immunological and Biological Corporation Ltd. had decided to set up a unit at village Chola in Bulandshahr, Uttar Pradesh, to produce oral polio vaccine; and

(b) if so, what is the progress made in the production of the vaccine so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT, ATOMIC ENERGY, ELECTRONICS AND SPACE (SHRI K. R. NARAYANAN): (a) and (b) A statement is laid on the Table of the House. (See below)