

handling facilities and inferior quality coal, and poor maintenance of plant. Following measures have been taken to improve the performance;—

—Assistance to State Electricity Boards/Power Stations for undertaking plant betterment program-

* ration of time bound programme for mes.

—Assisting State Electricity Boards/Power Stations in procurement of requisite quality and quantity of coal, and also spare parts from indigenous and foreign sources.

—Visits of Task Forces and Roving Teams to identify weak areas requiring improvement and prepa-rectification.

—Training of engineers and operation & maintenance personnel.

—Introduction of Centrally Sponsored Renovation and Modernisation Scheme.

—Introduction of incentive scheme.

Threat of Meningitis and Malaria to widows of November riots housed in Tilak Vihar in Delhi

743. SHRI YALLA SESI BHUSHANA RAO: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

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(a) whether it is a fact that there is a serious threat of meningitis and malaria to the widows of recent riots now housed in Tilak Vihar as reported in Times of India on the 1st April, 1985 and if so, what remedial steps have been taken/are proposed to be taken;

(b) whether it is a fact that the Indian Medical Research and Development scientists have been working for decades on preventive vaccines/ sera for various diseases including

malaria and meningitis and if so, the details of the achievements and expenditure incurred thereon;

(c) whether meningitis vaccine now imported more effectively manufactured in various old established institutes in the country some of which have been in existence for nearly a century and are employing foreign qualified researchers; and

(d) whether Government propose to revamp and reorganise these research institutions?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH (SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA):

(a) No, Sir. However Medical Teams are visiting the area and giving Chemprophylaxis with Sulphadiazin tablets to all suffering from sore throat/fever in the area. As a health education measure pamphlets with do's and don'ts in respect of meningitis have been distributed to all the families. Anti-malaria measures have also been intensified. Fogging operations, regular anti-larval measures and focal spray with Pyrethrum are being undertaken in these areas. Weekly surveillance is being done the area to detect malaria cases in the community.

(b) and (c) The country today is self sufficient in the production of a number of vaccines, including vaccines required for the expanded programme of immunization. While some progress has been achieved in the field of development of an anti malaria vaccine, it has not yet reached a level of production and introduction in the national programme.

Taking up a programme for the research and development of the technology of production of pure poly-sacharide antigens including menin-gococal vaccine as a pilot project is under consideration.

(d) It is a continuous process.