

cines easily available in the market; and

(d) what measures have been taken by Government for its prevention?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA): (a) 225 deaths due to meningitis in Delhi have been reported since beginning January to 9th March, 1985.

(b) There are no specific or ascertainable reasons for the spread of the disease during this year. The incidence pattern over the years has been irregular without following any particular mode.

(c) Yes.

(d) The following measures have been taken to check the spread of the disease:—

(i) Constant surveillance is being maintained, especially in the affected and congested localities.

(ii) Early diagnosis and treatment, even on the basis of presumptive clinical diagnosis is being undertaken.

(iii) Arrangements for adequate supply of drugs have been made. All the hospitals and dispensaries have stocked sufficient quantities of the required antibiotics and supportive drugs.

(iv) In order to create a general awareness amongst the public and to impress upon them the need for early diagnosis and treatment the services of AIR and Doordarshan, and also of the press, are utilised.

(v) The Indian Medical Association have initiated action to issue instructions to their members regarding proper management of cases.

(vi) The WHO, at our behest, has airlifted Sera for proper typing of the causative organisms.

(vii) The Indian Council of Medical Research has initiated studies on carriers and their management in order to provide information on the epidemiology of the disease for better control.

(viii) It has been decided to vaccinate the identified high-risk groups.

### Rural Electrification

15. SHRI K. VASUDEVA PANICKER: Will the Minister of IRRIGATION AND POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the position in regard to electrification of rural areas has recently been reviewed by Government; and

(b) the steps proposed to be taken by Government for speedier electrification of villages in the Seventh Five Year Plan?

THE MINISTER OF IRRIGATION AND POWER (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND): (a) and (b) The position in regard to electrification of rural areas has been reviewed in the context of formulation of the Seventh Plan Power Programme. The Seventh Five Year Plan has, however, not yet been finalised.

### Rational Distribution of Power

16. SHRI K. VASUDEVA PANICKER: Will the Minister of IRRIGATION AND POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that 90 per cent of the available energy is used for commercial and domestic purposes in big cities neglecting the rural areas;

(b) if so, what steps are proposed to be taken by Government for a rational distribution of the available energy in the country;

(c) what are the various sources of non-conventional energy which have, so far, been tapped by Government to tackle the power crisis; and