

that all the States will strengthen their organisations.

DR. RAMKRIPAL SINHA : How many States have formed corporations ?—that was my question.

MR. CHAIRMAN : He has got information from only nine States. He does not know how many corporations have been constituted.

SHRI GIAN CHAND TOTU : The hon. Minister while replying said that against a total expenditure of Rs. 457 crores proposed this year, the allocation for a backward State like Himachal Pradesh is only Rs. 10 lakhs. May I know the reason for such a low allocation of fund for Himachal Pradesh ?

SHRI SHAH NAWAZ KHAN : The nature of the State. Himachal Pradesh, as the hon. Member knows, is a very hilly and mountainous area, and the scope for drilling tubewells there is limited.

SHRI SARDAR AMJAD ALI : The hon. Minister referred to the drought-prone area programme with regard to the exploitation and effective use of the under ground water resources. I would like to know whether the hon. Minister is aware of the fact that Central assistance for this drought-prone area scheme has been diverted to certain other uses in various States. If any such information has come to his Ministry, what steps has he taken lest there should be further diversion of funds ?

SHRI SHAH NAWAZ KHAN : As far as we are aware, there has been no such diversion of funds, and I would be grateful to the hon. Member if he can point out any specific cases.

DR. V. B. SINGH : I start on the premise that extension of irrigation is a part of the planning process, and planning process implies that what is scarce has to be used in the most economical way and what is abundant has to be used affluently. Labour is surplus in the whole region, including India, but capital is scarce. And when the hon. Minister speaks about the expenditure, it seems that some nawab of the 18th century is giving doles to these States, to this State or to that State. According to expert opinion, underground water resources are the richest in one region only in the whole world, and that is

in the north of the Ganges. So, why not tap this region to its maximum and raise the production of foodgrains ? Why not tap these resources which are cheaper to work so that our scarce capital is better utilised, our foodgrain targets are earlier realised and the foreign exchange that we are incurring in importing food is minimised.

SHRI SHAH NAWAZ KHAN : We are aware that running parallel to the Himalayas, north of the Ganges, there is an abundance of water. We are sparing no efforts to utilise that water to the maximum extent. We are utilising the surplus water by putting up big dams, by creating command area development projects and by instituting a programme of massive drilling of tubewells right from Amritsar to Orissa. There is no dearth of that. But there is no reason why areas which are drought-prone and areas which have been unfortunate should be left out. We are not leaving them out.

DR. V. B. SINGH : What is the order of priority ?

MR. CHAIRMAN : No, no, he has answered.

SHRI S. A. KHAJA MOHIDEEN : I would like to know from the hon. Minister what action the Government proposes to take to exploit the underground water resources in the drought-affected areas in Tamil Nadu ?

SHRI SHAH NAWAZ KHAN : Sir, we have certain districts which have been declared as drought-prone areas and an agency has been established, and that agency is giving subsidies to the farmers to sink tubewells, to build tanks and to harness all the underground water resources wherever they are available.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Next question.

Eradication of Malaria from the Indian Sub-continent

*64. **SHRI GIAN CHAND TOTU :**†

SHRI SYED NIZAM-UD-DIN :

SHRI LEONARD SOLOMAN SARING :

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

†The question was actually asked on the floor of the House by Shri Gian Chand Totu.

whether any joint meeting has recently been held between India, Pakistan and Bangladesh to eradicate malaria from the sub-continent and if so, what strategy has been evolved for joint action in this regard ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY PLANNING (SHRI A. K. M. ISHAQUE) : No, Sir. No joint meeting has recently been held between India, Pakistan and Bangladesh in connection with eradication of malaria from the Sub-continent. W.H.O. Regional Officer had, however, called a meeting to discuss problems of malaria in South-East Asia Region which was attended by representatives from 8 countries. Pakistan is not a member of South-East Asia Region.

SHRI GIAN CHAND TOTU : May I know from the hon. Minister the reasons for the reappearance of malaria ? Once it was completely eradicated. What are the reasons for its reappearance ?

SHRI A. K. M. ISHAQUE : Sir, I thought they would be on the border, but they have very conveniently come back to the country itself. As a matter of fact, malaria was never completely eradicated. But it was brought very much under control. Now from 1965 onwards, there has been a resurgence of malaria. There was some satisfaction in the country that malaria had been totally eradicated. It was taking a toll of eight lakh deaths. And from this situation, it came to a situation where there was no death at all. So there was some satisfaction, some laxity in the administration. And more particularly, the insecticide that we used to spray, that is the D.D.T., was in short supply in 1965. The Suez Canal, through which it used to come, was closed for a long time and we could not make timely spraying. So it started from then and it has increased to this extent.

SHRI GIAN CHAND TOTU : May I know from the hon. Minister whether, with the steps that are being taken to eradicate malaria, the Ministry is prepared for its reappearance again ?

SHRI A. K. M. ISHAQUE : Sir, we have made a calculation that if we want to eradicate malaria completely throughout the

country, that is possible even now. But then that will require a huge amount. That amount is not available to us. This year we are having an amount of Rs. 32 crores. With this we cannot have effective control.

SHRI SYED NIZAM-UD-DIN : The hon. Minister just now replied about south-east Asian countries. We are bordered by Pakistan on one side and by Bangladesh on the other side. Therefore, the appearance of malaria in those countries will definitely have some effect on this country also. So, I would like to know from the hon. Minister if the Government of India will take initiative in this regard so that all the three countries of the sub-continent can fight malaria in the sub-continent jointly.

SHRI A. K. M. ISHAQUE : As a matter of fact we have taken initiative in having talks with Pakistan. We wrote to the WHO here to organise a border meeting with Pakistan. Pakistan has replied that they are also ready. Now the place and the time of the meeting have to be fixed. We also approached the Pakistan Government through the Swiss Embassy. They have also responded positively. So now it is a question of just fixing the meeting time, and we are going to have talks with them. With Bangladesh we have already had two talks. The last meeting was in 1975. It was fixed at Dacca, but it could not be held as the law and order situation in Dacca was not that good.

SHRI NABIN CHANDRA BURAGOHAIN : The World Health Organisation had stated that there may be some 12 million cases of Malaria and 4 lakh deaths from that in the country by the end of the current debate. Last year, that is in 1975, there were well over four million cases of Malaria in India resulting in 99 deaths. One of the main reasons for this is perhaps that the Government is fighting this menace with the help of DDT to which after some time the Malaria mosquitoes become resistant. Therefore, may I ask the hon. Minister whether any test or attempt has been made to find out whether there is any dilution in the preparation of DDT ? May I also know who produces DDT ?

SHRI A. K. M. ISHAQUE : It is unfortunate that last year and in 1974 we

had some deaths from Malaria. We are very, very sorry for that. It is true that constant use of DDT will make the Malaria mosquitoes resistant to it. Whenever they develop resistance to DDT, we can switch over either to BHC or Malatheaon. We can use them in any quantity because we produce them in the country whereas we have to import DDT to the extent of 4,000 tonnes and part of it is diverted for agricultural purposes for pest control.

DR. RAMKRIPAL SINHA : Government have failed to teach family planning to Malaria mosquitoes. Will the Government tell the House how many persons were affected by Malaria and Kalazar in that State of Bihar in 1975 ? Is it a fact that medicines for Kalazar are sold at a very high price and injection is at time sold for Rs. 15/- and Rs. 20/- per phial in certain places in North Bihar ? What steps are being proposed by the Government to provide medicine at cheaper rates in North Bihar ?

SHRI A. K. M. ISHAQUE : I do not have the State-wise break-up with me now. If the hon. Member is interested in the information, I will supply it to him. But so far as anti-malaria medicines are concerned, they are very much in abundance and there is no shortage. As a matter of fact we have flooded the market with these medicines.

Dues of Calcutta Municipal Corporation Against the Central Government

*65. **SHRI SARDAR AMJAD ALI :**†
SHRI ROSHAN LAL :
SHRI HIMMAT SINH :
SHRI HARSH DEO MALAVIYA :

Will the Minister of WORKS AND HOUSING be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that more than a crore of rupees is due from the Central Government to the Calcutta Municipal Corporation;

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard; and

(c) by when the dues are expected to be paid to the Corporation ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WORKS AND HOUSING (SHRI H. K. L. BHAGAT) : (a) According to the latest information available from the Calcutta Municipal Corporation, a sum of Rs. 29,26,474.92 paise is outstanding as service charge dues against various Central Government Departments. Meanwhile C.P.W.D. has informed us that an amount of Rs. 5,58,912.30 has been paid to the Corporation and the amount outstanding would to that extent correspondingly get reduced.

(b) A statement is annexed. (*See below*)

(c) As the dues relate to various Central Government Departments, no precise time limit can be indicated for their realisation. However, the Calcutta Corporation has been advised to take up the matter with the concerned Central Government Departments direct.

Statement

Details of Service Charges payable by the Central Government Department

| Premises No. | Period to which the bills pertain | Amount |
|---|-----------------------------------|--------------|
| 1. 166, Lenin Sarani (Government of India Forms Store, | 1968-69 to 1974-75 | 1,79,091.00 |
| 2. 43/1, Hyde Road, (Foodgrain godown at Thinjhin pole) | 1-4-56 to 31-3-73 | 14,76,977.33 |

†The question was actually asked on the floor of the House by Shri Sardar Amjad Ali.