

STATEMENT

(a) to (c) A party of girl students escorted by their teachers came to visit Humayun's tomb at about 10.30 a.m. on the 10th November, 1972. Some male students of the Industrial Training Institute who were already inside the monument started teasing the girl students. The girl students and their teachers sought help of the departmental watch-and-ward staff on duty who had to intervene to rescue the girl students. The Monument Attendants tried to intervene in the matter. Some students who escaped from the monument called their colleagues from the college, which is situated very close to the monument. About 250 students reached the spot and they used stones, brick-bats, hockey sticks, lathis and other things. They broke two office chairs, two bicycles belonging to the Monument Attendants were thrown in the well and also damaged the wire netting of the doors. The Photo Stall leased to the contractor was also attacked and some of its contents were set on fire. Three of the Monument Attendants got multiple injuries and were sent to the hospital.

The police help was sought and the matter is under investigation by them.

PARALYSIS DUE TO CONSUMPTION OF
KESHARI DAL

1900. SHRI SANAT KUMAR RAHA : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY PLANNING be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that paralysis is prevalent among the poor people of West Bengal and Madhya Pradesh due to consumption of 'Keshari Dal', a particular variety of pulse and 'sativas', a variety of cheap foodgrains; and

(b) if so, what steps have been taken to check this dangerous disease?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY PLANNING (SHRI A. K. KISKU) : (a) Cases of paralysis among

poor sections of the people in West Bengal and Madhya Pradesh have been reported from time to time. This is said to be due to excessive consumption of keshari dal which is used by these sections of the people as a staple food.

(b) The following steps have been taken by the State Governments to check the disease :

(i) People have been warned about the danger of consumption of keshari dal and instructed about the simple process of detoxication through radio and other media in the affected areas;

(ii) Printed leaflets containing instructions have been distributed;

(iii) Domiciliary treatment is extended and follow-up visits by District Health Officers are made;

(iv) The National Institute of Nutrition has published a pamphlet "Lathyrism—a preventable paralysis" in English and Hindi;

(v) The Indian Council of Medical Research has sanctioned a scheme in Madhya Pradesh for demonstration of a method of home processing for the removal of toxin from keshari dal. This project will be taken up in the Community Development Block of Rewa;

(vi) The Indian Agricultural Research Institute is engaged in developing strains of the pulse which have a very low toxin content;

(vii) The Food Corporation of India is considering a proposal to parboil the pulse on large scale to reduce its toxin content.

SAFDARJANG OVER-BRIDGE

1901. SHRI VENIGALLA SATYANARAYANA : Will the Minister of WORKS AND HOUSING be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have made any inquiry in the matter of sub-standard material being used for the const-