

MR. CHAIRMAN : Yes, everybody knows that. Y«, Dr. Chakrabarti.

DR. R. K. CHAKRABARTI : Sir, in connection with the air pollution problem, I understand that in the universities we have qualified persons to tackle this problem. My question is whether there is any proposal from the Government side to ask our universities for carrying out research in this direction and suggest suitable remedies.

DR. DEBIPRASAD CHATTOPADHYAYA : Sir, we have already a Central Public Health Engineering Institute at Nagpur and we have set up 9 Monitoring stations in different parts of the country and they will be manned by the personnel who are quite capable of being on the university staff.

DEATHS DUE TO LIQUOR POISONING

*497. SHRI BHOLA PRASAD : Will the Minister of EDUCATION AND SOCIAL WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the incidence of liquor poisoning is on the increase;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the number of deaths due to liquor poisoning took place in different parts of the country during the last six months; and

(d) the steps taken by Government to prevent the manufacture of spurious liquor in the country ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF EDUCATION AND SOCIAL WELFARE (SHRI K. S. RAMASWAMY) : (a) to (d) Information is being collected from the State Governments/Union Territory Administrations and will be laid on the Table of the House as soon as it is received.

श्री भोला प्रसाद : मैं मंत्री जी से यह जानना चाहता हूँ कि नकली शराब और जहरीली शराब से जो लोग मर रहे हैं, उसकी रोकथाम के लिए सरकार की ओर से क्या क्या कदम उठाये जा रहे हैं ? क्या इस तरह की शराब बेचने के सम्बन्ध में और खरीदने के सम्बन्ध में लोगों को शिक्षित करने की व्यवस्था की जा रही है ताकि इस तरह की शराब पीने से लोगों को मौत से बचाया जा सके ? क्या सरकार इस तरह के लोगों का ध्यान इस चीज की ओर आकर्षित कर रही है जो इस तरह की शराब के शिकार हो जाते हैं ?

प्रो० एस० नुरुल हसन : जनाब वाला, यही तो चीज हमने जवाब में कही है कि इस बारे में स्टेट गवर्नमेंट्स से इत्तिला जमा की जा रही है और यूनियन टैरीटरीज से जमा कर रहे हैं। पहले जब इत्तिला पूरी हो जायेगी तब फिर इसके ऊपर माननीय सदस्य कुछ और सवाल पूछें, तो गुंजायश पैदा हो सकती है। जिस तरह से उन्होंने सवाल पूछा है, उसके बारे में पूरी इत्तिला अभी हमारे पास नहीं आई है।

श्री मान सिंह वर्मा : इतने लोग मर गये हैं और अभी तक आपके पास इत्तिला नहीं आई, यह ताज्जुब की बात है।

MR. CHAIRMAN : He says that the information will be collected . . .

{Interruptions}

SHRI NIREN GHOSH : What information has he collected , ..

{Interruptions}

DR. Z. A. AHMAD : Delhi is under your very nose...

{Interruptions}

MR. CHAIRMAN : Mr. Pranab Kumar Mukherjee.

SHRI PRANAB KUMAR MUKHERJEE : So far as parts (a), (b) and (c) are concerned, these relate to the State Governments. But in part (d) of the question it has been asked what steps have been taken by Government to prevent the manufacture of spurious liquor in the country.

श्री जगदीश प्रसाद माथुर : क्या यह सही है कि जहरीली शराब लोग इसलिए ज्यादा पीने लगे हैं क्योंकि प्रामाणिक शराब जो है वह मंहगी है, उसकी कीमत ज्यादा है। इसके अतिरिक्त ठेकेदारों के द्वारा सरकार जो शराब बिकवाती है उसकी कीमत सरकार ठेकेदारों को पूरी नहीं देती, इसलिए वे उसके अन्दर कोई चीज मिला देते हैं। जब सरकार की तरफ से नशाबन्दी नीति पूरी तरह से छोड़ दी गई है तो बजाय इसके कि लोग यह मंहगी और जहरीली शराब पियें, सरकारी तौर पर सरकारी दूकानें खोल कर सस्ती और अच्छी शराब लोगों के पीने के लिए सरकार मुहैया करेगी क्या ?

SHRI K. S. RAMASWAMY : It is true that liquor is costly and people go in for this illicit liquor but the Government is not thinking of opening shops.

SHRI K. CHANDRASEKHARAN : May I know from the Government whether in view of the fact that prohibition has completely failed, and the system of dry days also completely failed and it is having an adverse effect so far as our young men and young women are concerned would the Government take the example of Kerala and West Bengal and provide cheap, safe and good liquor in Government-sponsored, Government-licensed shops?

SHRI K. S. RAMASWAMY : I cannot agree that prohibition has failed. Gujarat has enforced total prohibition. Many have scrapped it but Gujarat is having it. Government is not thinking of opening shops.

SHRI V. V. SWAMINATHAN : I want to know what action has been taken by the Government to prevent production and sale of poisonous liquor. I want to know whether any person had been prosecuted and convicted during the past two years at least in Delhi.

DR. K. MATHEW KURIAN : The hon. Minister has said that distribution of cheap liquor is a matter for the State Governments. I would like to know from the hon. Minister a matter of policy regarding the Government of India in which he is primarily concerned. All studies on this problem show very clearly that in areas where prohibition was implemented, partly or wholly, the habit of drinking alcohol increased. In that connection I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether he is prepared to make a categorical statement that he will retrace the traditional, outmoded Gandhian concepts of prohibition?

PROF. S. NURUL HASAN : The Government of India has no intention to depart from the Directive Principles of State Policy in regard to prohibition. However, it is prepared to review from time to time how best to implement this particular policy considering the limited means and resources that are available and also the difficulties of implementation.

श्री ओ.म. प्रकाश त्यागी : सभापति महोदय, जहरीली शराब की रोकथाम के निमित्त गवर्नमेंट ने जो एक नया कार्य किया है उसकी ओर संकेत नहीं किया। मिनिस्टर महोदय ने और वह यह है कि शराब के अड़े बहुत तेजी के साथ खोले जा रहे हैं और

जिस तरह से आजकल चाय मिलती है देश भर में उसी प्रकार से शराब मिलना प्रारम्भ हो गई है। तो मैं जानना चाहता हूँ कि (Interruptions) क्या गवर्नमेंट ने . . .

एक माननीय सदस्य : आपको कैसे मालूम हुआ ?

श्री जगदीश प्रसाद माधुर : आपको वहाँ खरीदते हुए देखा था। वह दूकान पर मिले थे।

श्री श्रीराम प्रकाश त्यागी : सभापति महोदय, यह एक गांधी जी के भक्त बोल रहे हैं।

श्री सभापति : आप सवाल करिये, नहीं तो मैं भागे बढ़ता हूँ।

श्री श्रीराम प्रकाश त्यागी : तो मैं जानना चाहता हूँ कि क्या गवर्नमेंट को यह अनुभव हो गया है कि जो गवर्नमेंट की शराब बन्दी की नीति है वह असफल हो चुकी है तो क्या गवर्नमेंट इस पालिसी के ऊपर फिर से दुबारा विचार करके शराब को सेंट्रल सबजेक्ट बनाकर तमाम देश में समान रूप से शराब-बन्दी की एक नीति लागू करने की बात पर विचार करेगी ?

PROF. S. NURUL HASAN : There is no intention to make it a Central subject.

PROVISION OF DRINKING WATER IN VILLAGES

•498. SHRI KRISHAN KANT :
SHRI CHANDRA SEKHAR :
SHRI D. P. SINGH : SHRI
GULAM NABI UNTOO : DR. 2.
A. AHMAD :

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY PLANNING be pleased

†The question was actually asked on the floor of the House by Shri Krishan Kant.

to refer to the reply to Starred Question No. 182 given in Rajya Sabha on 22nd March, 1972 and state the year-wise progress in the provision of drinking water in villages during the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY PLANNING (SHRI UMASHANKAR DIKSHIT): A statement containing the available information in respect of some of the States and Union Territories is laid on the Table of the Sabha (Sec Appendix LXXX, Annexure No. 52). Information about the remaining States is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the Sabha.

SHRI KRISHAN KANT : May I know whether the Government have got a Central Cell at least to co-ordinate the basic problem of providing water to the villages ? It was decided that a large number of villages in the country would be covered during the Gandhi Centenary Year. Have you any plan of covering a heavy chunk of villages during the Silver Jubilee Year of the Independent India ?

AN HON. MEMBER: They have shifted from water to liquor.

DR. DEBIPRASAD CHATTOPADHYAYA : We do not have a Central Cell. In fact, we do not need it because there is a Central Ministry to look after and co-ordinate the projects. We might inform the House that we have taken up a project and are giving non-Plans loans ranging from Rs. 50 lakhs to 1 crore or Rs. 1.50 crores to different States for supplying water in rural areas during this year.

SHRI KRISHAN KANT : In the reply given on 22nd March, 1972, it was mentioned : The question of finding additional resources has been under consideration of the Central Government and it is proposed to give an additional assistance of about Rs. 20 crores to the States . . . and some more assistance is also proposed to be given during the last year of the Fourth