

RAJYA SABHA

Wednesday, the 26th July, 1967 |
the 4th Shrawana, 1889 (Saka)

The House met at eleven of the
clock. MR. CHAIRMAN in the Chair.

MEMBER SWORN

Shri Tribhovandas Kisibhai Patel
(Gujarat)

GIFT OF IUD SETS FROM DANISH
GOVERNMENT

*61. SHRI A. D. MANI: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY PLANNING be pleased to state whether it is a fact that the Danish Government has donated 10,000 antigon polygon IUD sets to the Indian Council of Medical Research for population control?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY PLANNING (DR. S. CHANDRASEKHAR): The Danish Government has given 10,000 polygons (an intra-uterine device devised by Dr. Paul Lebec of Denmark) to Indian Council of Medical Research for pilot clinical trials in India.

SHRI A. D. MANI: May I ask the Minister to give us some information about what a polygon device is—this is a technical subject—and whether it has been tried on an extensive scale in Europe?

DR. S. CHANDRASEKHAR: Sir, this intra-uterine device has been recently devised by some Danish doctors. It is made of plastic and it is of the size of a half Indian rupee; it has got a little built-in magnet. It needs a skilled gynaecologist to introduce it and the advantage of this over the Lippo's loop is that the fall-out rate is considerably less. In fact, it is very difficult to get it out unless the surgeon extracts it. Therefore, the retention rate will be considerably higher and the prevention of the conception rate will also be higher.

918 RSD—1.

SHRI A. D. MANI: Again, it is a technical subject; I am a lay man. May I ask him whether the polygon devices are free from the bleeding trouble which has been associated with the IUD?

DR. S. CHANDRASEKHAR: Yes, Sir, this is also another advantage. The bleeding is reported, from the clinical trials from Denmark and other countries, to be considerably less, and so is the lessening of the intra-menstrual spotting and the back-ache. Anyway, on our women we do not want to introduce it till we have clinical trials and found that it is acceptable to conditions in India and to the health of our women in India.

SHRI A. D. MANI: May I ask the Minister—he said just now that he does not want to experiment it on women—on whom he is going to experiment it?

DR. S. CHANDRASEKHAR: Not on a large scale, I said.

SHRI G. RAMACHANDRAN: The Minister in reply to Mr. Mani spoke about certain devices which are being tried and he said that he would not introduce them on a large scale unless he has tried and found that they are good, etc., etc. Is there not a danger—I would like to ask the Minister—in going on suggesting devices after devices from time to time and then finding that they are not good enough? That itself will pull back the whole scheme. What prevents the Minister from calling together the best experts in India and outside and then deciding upon some device which the common people can use with the least danger to themselves instead of going on trying one thing after another and giving it up? We are living in a scientific age and we have got great experts whom we can call upon to say something decisively in the matter.

DR. S. CHANDRASEKHAR: Sir, I crave the indulgence of the hon. Member. Just precisely because we are living in a scientific age and since the subject is going on very