

RAJYA SABHA

Wednesday, the 8th September, 1965/
the 17th Bhadra, 1887 (Saka)

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

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

CHOLERA IN KERALA STATE

*473. { SHRIMATI DEVAKI
GOPIDAS:†
SHRI JAGAT NARAIN:
SHRI ABDUL GHANI:

Will the Minister of HEALTH be
pleased to state:

(a) whether a study team visited
Kerala to investigate into the causes
of out-break of cholera in that State
and if so, when the report was sub-
mitted;

(b) what are the remedial measures
suggested in this report;

(c) what steps are being taken to
implement the recommendations of
the study team;

(d) whether it is a fact that the
out-break of cholera in Kerala State
in June, 1965 was due to the non-
implementation of the recommenda-
tions of the study team; and if so,
who is responsible for this; and

(e) how many persons died in Ke-
rala State due to the recent out-
break of cholera?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE
MINISTRY OF HEALTH (SHRI P. S.
NASKAR): (a) Yes, Sir. A preliminary
report was submitted by the Study
team in June, 1965.

(b) The main recommendations
made by the team are:

(i) Cholera control measures
should be programmed for
the next year besides con-
tinuing these in the present
year as the present epidemic
is expected to linger on.

(ii) Well-timed mass inoculation
should be undertaken with
special emphasis on the more
vulnerable sections of the
population.

(iii) More cholera workers should
be employed to complete the
inoculation programme ac-
cording to schedule.

(iv) Anti-cholera measures should
not wait till a case has been
declared positive, but these
should be undertaken imme-
diately on the occurrence of
cases of Gastro-enteritis or
suspected cholera.

(v) The strain reported to have
been isolated in this epidemic
is 'EL-tor'. In such epidemics
Cholera inoculation is not the
only answer for controlling
the epidemic; proper environ-
mental sanitation is much
more important.

(vi) According to epidemiological
forecast, cholera epidemic is
likely to occur in a virulent
form in 1966-67. The need to
adopt preventive measures to
control cholera is urgent.

(c) Steps are being taken by the
State Government to implement the
aforesaid recommendations. The
Laboratories attached to the Medical
Colleges are being utilised for bacter-
iological investigations. By appoint-
ing necessary additional staff, the
inoculation work in the affected areas
is being stepped up.

Proposals for starting a mass
inoculation programme covering the
entire coastal area are being consid-
ered by the State Government.

(d) No, Sir. The report was sent
to the State Government on 18-6-1965,
while the epidemic had started in
January, 1965.

(e) 594 deaths are reported to have
occurred in the State from January,
1965 upto the 20th July, 1965.

†The question was actually asked on the floor of the House by Shrimati
Devaki Gopidas.

श्री जगत नारायण : क्या वजीर साहब बतलायेंगे कि जुलाई के बाद क्या वहां केरल में कालेरा से डेथ्स हुई हैं ?

डा० सुशीला नायर : जी हां, कुछ तो हो रही हैं। बहुत कम हो गई हैं, लेकिन वह बिल्कुल खत्म हो गया है, ऐसा तो नहीं कह सकते।

श्री जगत नारायण : अभी आपने कहा कि जुलाई तक 594 हुई हैं, तो उसके बाद कालेरा से कितनी डेथ्स हुई हैं ?

SHRI P. S. NASKAR: In the month of August the number of cases reported is 18 and the number of deaths is 3. That is for cholera. With regard to gastro-enteritis, the number of cases is about 302 and that of deaths is 12. It shows that the figure has come down from the past months.

SHRI JOSEPH MATHEN: Are the Government thinking of any national cholera eradication programme?

DR. SUSHILA NAYAR: Yes, Sir. There is a programme that is already going on in the States but in the Fourth Plan we have proposed allocation for improving the water supply and sanitation of 48 districts covering eight States which are known to be endemic for cholera.

PANDIT S. S. N. TANKHA: Was the epidemic widespread or confined to certain cities only or some particular areas?

DR. SUSHILA NAYAR: Well, Sir, the main reservoir has been Calcutta South, Howrah, and from there it goes to Orissa and spreads to certain parts of Andhra and Maharashtra, etc., mainly along the pilgrim routes and so on.

श्री विमलकुमार मन्नालालजी चौरड़िया : क्या यह बताने का कष्ट करेंगी कि जो 48

ज़िले आपने बताये, उनकी सूची टेबल पर रख देंगी ?

डा० सुशीला नायर : जी हां, उन 48 ज़िलों की सूची मेज़ पर रख दूंगी।

SHRI SANTOKH SINGH: May I know the number of cases where the patients died of cholera, in spite of the fact that they were given injections against cholera.

DR. SUSHILA NAYAR: I am afraid I have not got figures with regard to incidence of cholera, among those to whom inoculation was given.

SHRIMATI DEVAKI GOPIDAS: May I know whether the cholera that has spread in Kerala is of a virulent type and also whether the Government has ensured that it will not recur in the next season?

DR. SUSHILA NAYAR: Well, Sir, cholera is a virulent disease. Of course, it might be sometimes a little more virulent and sometimes a little less. The fact that there have been something like 600 odd deaths shows that it was fairly virulent. As for the preventive measures to be taken against its recurrence in the coming years, my colleague has already read but the measures that are being contemplated and to the extent the State Governments implement them, we will be safe.

SHRI JOSEPH MATHEN: Do the Government know that the cholera infection has taken place in the coastal districts of Alleppey, Trichur and Quilon where good drinking water was not available and, if so, have the Government taken any action to provide good drinking water to these districts?

DR. SUSHILA NAYAR: Sir, it is true that in some coastal areas and in other areas where the drinking water is not protected cholera cases

did occur. As I mentioned earlier, we have proposed a scheme for proper water supply in these difficult and scarcity areas, including the coastal areas, for the Fourth Plan.

SHRIMATI DEVAKI GOPIDAS: May I know whether there will be any crash programme for the supply of drinking water, in the Fourth Plan?

DR. SUSHILA NAYAR: Sir, how can I say that? It all depends on what the situation is. We have certain programmes and certain plans. To what extent we will be able to implement them, it is not possible for me to make any categorical statement at present.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Next question.

बाढ़ की वैज्ञानिक रीति से भविष्यवाणी करने सम्बन्धी समिति

* 474. श्री भगवत नारायण भार्गव : क्या सिंचाई तथा विद्युत् मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि बाढ़ की वैज्ञानिक रीति से भविष्य वाणी करने के सम्बन्ध में जो समिति डा० के० आर० रामनाथन् की अध्यक्षता में दिसम्बर, 1963 में नियुक्त की गई थी, उसके प्रतिवेदन पर क्या कार्यवाही की गई है ?

†[COMMITTEE ON SCIENTIFIC FLOOD FORECASTING

*474. SHRI B. N. BHARGAVA: Will the Minister of IRRIGATION AND POWER be pleased to state what action has been taken on the report of the Committee on Scientific Flood Forecasting appointed under the Chairmanship of Dr. K. R. Ramana-than in December, 1963?]

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF IRRIGATION AND POWER (SHRI S. D. MISRA): The Committee had suggested the establishment of a network of flood fore-

casting centres. Owing to financial stringency, it is proposed to make a start on a limited scale in the Fourth Plan.

‡[सिंचाई तथा विद्युत् मन्त्रालय में उपमन्त्री (श्री एस० डी० मिश्र) : समिति ने बाढ़ पूर्व सूचना केन्द्रों के एक तारजाल को स्थापित करने का सुझाव दिया था । पैसे की कमी के कारण चतुर्थ योजना में इस काम को एक छोटे पैमाने पर शुरू करने का विचार है ।]

श्री भगवत नारायण भार्गव : इस सम्बन्ध में जिस साज-सामान की आवश्यकता है, क्या उसको विदेशों से मंगा लिया गया है या यहीं इसको सज्जित किया गया है ?

श्री एस० डी० मिश्र : अभी सामान कोई नहीं मंगाया गया है । इस सम्बन्ध में जो कमेटी ने रिपोर्ट दी है, उस पर करीब करीब एक करोड़ रुपये का खर्च है और अभी उसकी स्वीकृति भी नहीं हुई है । अभी रिड्यूस्ड स्केल पर जो 68 लाख की स्कीम बनाई गई है, उसमें दस लाख रुपये का फारेन एक्सचेंज खर्च होगा और चतुर्थ पंचवर्षीय योजना में जब उसकी स्वीकृति होगी, तब फारेन एक्सचेंज के जरिए सामान बाहर से आयेगा ।

श्री भगवत नारायण भार्गव : सरकार की ओर से पहले यह कहा गया था कि एक सेंटर एक जगह खोल रहे हैं, तो वह सेंटर कहां खोला जा रहा है और उस पर कितना खर्च होगा ?

DR. K. L. RAO: We have got one station at Delhi. We propose to have another at Patna and for cyclone warnings we propose to have one on the east coast of India.

श्री भगवत नारायण भार्गव : क्या इसका मतलब यह है कि जहां यह सेंटर खुलेगा उसी के आसपास बाढ़ की फोरकास्ट की जा सकेगी और दूसरी जगहों की नहीं ?