

REMUNERATION FOR VASECTOMY

*618. SHRIMATI SHAKUNTALA PARANJPYE: Will the Minister of HEALTH be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Medical Officers and the assisting staff are paid some extra remuneration per case of vasectomy;

(b) whether it is also a fact that no extra remuneration is paid to the Medical Officers or their assisting staff for performing sterilization of women though it is a major operation whereas vasectomy is a minor one; and

(c) if the reply to above parts be in the affirmative, what is the reason for this differential treatment?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH (SHRI P. S. NASKAR): (a) and (b) The Government of India have not approved any payment to wholetime Medical Officer or staff for performing sterilisation operations.

(c) Does not arise.

SHRIMATI SHAKUNTALA PARANJPYE: Am I to understand that the Central Government does not pay anything to doctors performing vasectomy either?

DR. SUSHILA NAYAR: We provide remuneration to private doctors, but when they are our own doctors, full-time paid doctors, whether they do vasectomy or whether they do anything else, they do it under the salaries paid to them.

SHRIMATI SHAKUNTALA PARANJPYE: What about paying the doctors in private institutions who are performing women's sterilization?

DR. SUSHILA NAYAR: They are also paid according to the rates that have been prescribed.

SHRIMATI SHAKUNTALA PARANJPYE: May I know what the rate is that is paid for vasectomy?

DR. SUSHILA NAYAR: For vasectomy, the minimum is 10 operations—Rs. 100

per day. For tubectomy, the minimum is 5 operations—Rs. 100 per day.

SHRI M. M. DHARIA: Is it a fact that some State Governments have proposed to the Central Government that cash rewards should be given to such social workers who bring cases for vasectomy or for sterilization?

DR. SUSHILA NAYAR: No, Madam. This has not been considered proper by the Family Planning Board and has not been accepted.

SHRI P. N. SAPRU: May I know what is the psychological effect on man after vasectomy?

DR. SUSHILA NAYAR: Madam, to the best of our knowledge, there are no untoward effects of any kind. There are certain people who psychologically or psychiatrically may not be quite well adjusted and they may suffer from certain types of reactions under any circumstances and under any type of operation.

*619. [Transferred to the 26th March, 1965.]

RAT POPULATION IN INDIA

*620. SHRI KRISHAN DUTT: Will the Minister of HEALTH be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that according to the calculations made by her Ministry, the rat population of India is 240 crores;

(b) if so, what has been the basis and technique of arriving at that figure; and

(c) what steps Government propose to take in future to save the country's foodgrains and health from a population "explosion" in mice in the country?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH (SHRI P. S. NASKAR): (a) and (b) In a review made by the Directorate of plant Protection, Quarantine and Storage, New Delhi in 1954, the rat population in India was estimated to be 240 crores. The estimate had

been based on various calculations relating to the number of rat burrows per acre commonly found in various parts of India, the total area under crops, areas lying fallow, the average number of rats found in a burrow etc.

(c) A statement is laid on the Table of the Sabha.

STATEMENT

Rodent control measures are being taken by different agencies from the point of view of safeguarding storage of foodgrains, preservation of agricultural produce and control of diseases like plague as described below:—

(a) *Rodent control in food-grain stores.*—A technical organisation under the Department of Food is concerned with proper storage of foodgrains in Central Government godowns. There are technical personnel to look after proper preservation of foodgrains. Training as to how to control infestation, rats, etc. is also imparted to the persons.

2. To eradicate rat menace in the godowns, operations *e.g.*, poison baiting, syano-gassing of rat burrows and rat trapping are conducted. The new constructed godowns by the Government are made rodent proof. At present about $\frac{2}{3}$ of the capacity of godowns held by the Government are their own construction and is rat proof. The hired godowns, where rodent trouble is confined, are being given up gradually as the new construction comes up.

3. Besides adopting various control measures in the Government warehouses, it has been proposed to extend the activities of rodent control in the rural areas through the Directorate of Extension, Department of Agriculture. Control measures for rats were carried out in 3 villages of Agra District by the technical staff of the Food Department in consultation with the Block Development Officer. It is also contemplated to have the Rice Milling Industry Act, Essential Commodities Act and Wheat Roller Flour Mills (Licencing and Control) Order suitably amended to include the provision for the control of rats.

(b) *Rodent control in agricultural field.*—In order to save the country's foodgrains in the agricultural fields from rats, anti-rat campaigns are regularly launched by practically all State Plant Protection Organisations, extension agencies and others.

Main method for rat control is poison baiting, involving the use of zinc phosphide or strychnine hydrochloride. Both of these poisons are available in India in plenty. The anti-rat campaigns were carried out over about 2.6 million acres during 1962-63. These campaigns have to be repeated every year. The Government of India shares the cost of rat poisons issued by the State Governments for the control of rats on a fifty-fifty basis.

(c) *Control of plague.*—When plague was widely prevalent in India, every State Health Department used to have anti-rodent squads. These squads were disbanded when plague was controlled. According to the information available, no separate organisations exist at present in the local bodies for the control of rodents from the point of view of control of plague which is now confined to a small area of three contiguous taluks of Andhra Pradesh, Mysore and Madras State, namely, Chittoor, Kolar and Salem. Plague control organisations have been set up in these places. The anti-plague measures that are being carried out in these districts are: (a) indoor residual spraying of B.H.C. in Water suspension twice a year and to kill rat fleas; (b) the cyanogassing of all domestic and peri-domestic rodent burrows twice a year. After cyanogassing the burrows are insufflated with 10 per cent. B.H.C. dust to kill surviving rat fleas. The plague control measures in the country are co-ordinated by the National Institute of Communicable Diseases, Delhi.

In pursuance of a resolution passed at the meeting of the Central Council of Local Self Government on the 11th February, 1965 in Bombay, steps are being taken to constitute a Central Committee which will go into the question of rodent control in all its aspects. The State Governments have also been addressed to constitute similar committees to examine

the question of intensification of rodent control measures in the States. After the recommendations of the Central and State Committees have been received, it is proposed to formulate a National Rodent Control Programme for inclusion in the Fourth Five Year Plan.

SHRI KRISHAN DUTT: May I know how long it would take for the Government to switch over completely to rodent-proof Government godowns and completely do away with hired godowns, for storage of foodgrains?

DR. SUSHILA NAYAR: It is not possible for me to give any detailed information on this. I think it should be asked of the Food Minister; but I do know this, Madam, that the warehousing the Government is constructing is rat-proof, and I think 75 per cent. or more of the warehouses are Government-built.

SHRI ARJUN ARORA: May I know if the principles of sterilization and vasectomy will be applied to rats also?

(No reply)

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: May I know whether the Government has been good enough to take an estimate of the rat population in the Central Secretariat, South Block and North Block?

(No reply)

PROF. B. N. PRASAD: May I know how this calculation of the number of rats as 240 crores was arrived at?

DR. SUSHILA NAYAR: There are certain calculations made from the rat droppings, rats in a particular burrow or hole and certain other things. From these they make the estimate, and it is an internationally accepted method of estimating the number of rats.

SHRI N. SRI RAMA REDDY: I would like to know whether any estimate of the human food stolen by these 240 crores of rats has been made.

DR. SUSHILA NAYAR: Madam, it was stated by some people that six rats eat the food of one man.

DEATH OF AN ITALIAN GOVERNESS DUE TO RABIES

*621. **SHRI I. K. GUJRAL:** Will the Minister of HEALTH be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that an Italian Governess of a French diplomat died of rabies in Delhi on the 24th February, 1965, as reported in "The Hindustan Times" of the 5th March, 1965; and

(b) if so, whether an enquiry into the circumstances of this death has been held, and if so, the details thereof?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH (SHRI P. S. NASKAR): (a) Yes, Madam.

(b) Yes, Madam. An enquiry by Dr. Pandit, Emeritus Scientist, National Institute of Communicable Diseases, revealed that proper first-aid treatment was given as also the full course of anti-rabic injections as indicated for the disease.

Detailed investigations in the Safdar-jang Hospital showed that there was proper storage and there was no defect in the vaccine.

Failure of treatment resulting in death from hydro-phobia is not unknown. The ultimate result would depend upon, among other factors, the chances which the rabies virus has, to anchor itself on nerve endings exposed in the wound.

SHRI I. K. GUJRAL: The hon. Minister has said that all the precautions were taken, all the medicines were given and everything was done. Has the enquiry established the possible reasons—although it can be an exception—as to why this rabies occurred even then, and the patient caught hydro-phobia?

DR. SUSHILA NAYAR: Madam, it is a very sad thing. But it is an unfortunate fact that there is no 100 per cent. protection from anything as a result of the various treatments, immunisations, etc. In rabies immunisation, 0.8 per cent or per thousand—which I forget—failures occur in spite of anti-rabies treatment. As has been stated by my colleague, it depends upon the depth of the wound, the particular area exposed and the number of nerve-endings that has been exposed in that area to which the rabies virus can