

Mr. Speaker: You can have a discussion also later on.

An hon. Member: What about question No. 42?

Mr. Speaker: It is transferred to another day.

Indigenous Systems of Medicine

*48. **Shri S. C. Samanta:** Will the Minister of Health and Family Planning be pleased to state:

(a) the reasons for the neglect of indigenous systems of medicine which are being replaced by the Allopathic system even in the rural areas;

(b) the broad details of the schemes, if any, formulated by Government to encourage the indigenous systems; and

(c) the amount ear-marked for this purpose in the Fourth Five Year Plan as against the Allopathic system of Medicine?

The Minister of Health and Family Planning (Dr. S. Chandrasekhar): (a) The Indigenous Systems of Medicine viz, Ayurveda, including Siddha Unani and Yoga are being progressively developed along with the Modern System of Medicine.

(b) The Government of India is mainly concerned with the development of Research and Post-Graduate Education in these systems. Proposals have been included in the successive Plans for establishing Post-Graduate and Research Institutes, Drug Standardization Laboratories, Medicinal Herb Gardens and Survey Units and compilation of the Ayurvedic, Siddha and Unani Pharmacopoeia.

(c) An allocation of Rs. 5 crores in the Central Sector and Rs. 5 crores in the State Sector has tentatively been included in the Fourth Five Year Plan for the development of the Indigenous Systems of Medicine. The Plan allocation for the Allopathic system is Rs. 482 crores.

Shri S. C. Samanta: Is it not a fact that both Committees, one for the indigenous system and the other for

homoeopathy recommended the establishment of a medical institute in the country? Has this recommendation been taken up and is it being followed?

Dr. S. Chandrasekhar: If by 'medical institute', the hon. Member means a medical college to be run on the principles of ayurveda and the systems included in it, it is being examined and will be implemented very soon by Government.

Shri S. C. Samanta: May I know whether the certificates issued by Ayurvedic doctors are given the same honour and prestige as the certificates issued by doctors of modern systems of medicine?

Dr. S. Chandrasekhar: I would like to tell the hon. Member that a committee on organisation on the lines of the Indian Medical Council, for the purpose of recognising Ayurvedic practitioners, is being contemplated by the Government, and legislation will be brought forward as soon as it is feasible.

Shri Baburao Patel: May I know what amount is being allotted in the Fourth Five Year Plan for the development of Homoeopathy which is the cheapest system of medicine for treating poor people in this country?

Dr. S. Chandrasekhar: For the indigenous systems of medicine including homoeopathy, unani and nature cure, in the first plan we gave Rs. 0.4 crores; in the second plan Rs. 4.0 crores; in the third plan Rs. 9.8 crores; and in the fourth plan it is contemplated to spend Rs. 10 crores.

Shri Hem Barua: May I know if the attention of the hon. Minister has been drawn to a recent criticism about the hybrid, i.e. the mixing of allopathy with indigenous systems of medicine—I do not think homoeopathy is an indigenous system, whatever that might be—mixture of allopathy with Ayurveda and other indigenous systems of medicine? May I know whether Government are trying to maintain and retain the purity of the indigenous system by not allowing them to get

mixed up with the so-called modern system of medicine known as allopathy?

Dr. S. Chandrasekhar: This is an important question, and I would like to tell the hon. Member that there are three proposals. One, we have institutions where pure or suddha Ayurveda and indigenous systems of medicine are adopted; second, where we have what you may call non-siddha, not a suddha is an integrated system where both allopathy

Shri Hem Barua: As non-moral is not immoral, do I understand that non-suddha is not asuddha?

Dr. S. Chandrasekhar: As I said, it is non-suddha, not asuddha, i.e. integrated systems are also being followed, depending upon the individual's choice, where they can go and get help.

Devaluation and Foreign Exchange Resources

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*44. **Shri S. C. Samanta:**

Dr. Karni Singh:

Shri S. M. Banerjee:

Shri C. C. Desai:

Shri Prakash Vir Shastri:

Will the Minister of Finance be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been any depletion in India's foreign exchange resources after devaluation on account of increased expenditure of foreign exchange for all our imports particularly food and defence hardware; and

(b) whether devaluation has succeeded to gain the objectives envisaged and if so, in what manner?

The Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Finance (Shri Morarji Desai): (a) No, Sir.

(b) It is as yet early for the success in achieving the objectives of devaluation to be assessed.

Shri S. C. Samanta: May I know whether a Devaluation Committee has been set up by any ministry about the working of the devaluation in the country?

Shri Morarji Desai: No committee is necessary for it. The Finance Ministry is looking after it.

Shri S. C. Samanta: I wanted to know whether any ministry has done anything in the matter, whether the Ministry of Transport has gone into the matter and submitted to the Government its recommendations?

Shri Morarji Desai: I have no knowledge of it.

Dr. Karni Singh: With no perceptible increase in our exports and foreign exchange earnings ever since devaluation, are Government prepared to consider that recourse to devaluation was a hasty and ill-advised step, as has been proved by results so far during the last nine months?

Shri Nath Pai: You mean absence of results.

Shri Morarji Desai: No amount of opinion given now is going to change the fact of devaluation.

Dr. Karni Singh: The hon. Minister has not enlightened us whether this was a retrograde step or a step in the right direction.

Shri Morarji Desai: Everybody is free to have whatever opinion he wants.

Shri Balraj Madhok: We want to know the opinion of the Government.

Shri Nath Pai: Would you have done it if you were the Finance Minister?

Shri Hem Barua: What is the opinion of the Government?

Shri H. N. Mukerjee: The Deputy Prime Minister said that it was a matter of opinion. A Member of this House, on behalf of the whole House, wanted to know the factual position in regard to the Government view in regard to devaluation, objectively speaking. Let him give the Government's view, and not leave it in mid air.