

LOK SABHA

Tuesday, the 22nd May, 1962/1st
Jyaistha, 1884 (Saka).

The Lok Sabha met at Eleven of the
Clock.

[MR. SPEAKER in the Chair]

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Physical Development of Children

- *915. { Shri Subodh Hansda:
+ Shri S. C. Samanta:
Shri M. L. Dwivedi:

Will the Minister of Health be
pleased to state:

(a) whether an official survey of
the growth and physical development
of children has been carried out
recently;

(b) if so, how many children were
examined;

(c) whether it is a fact that the
Indian Council of Medical Research
also made a survey; and

(d) if so, what are the recommen-
dations of both the surveys?

The Deputy Minister in the Minis-
try of Health (Dr. D. S. Raju): (a)
No official survey of the growth and
physical development of children has
been carried out.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d). Studies on the growth
and physical development of children
in India are being conducted by the
Indian Council of Medical Research.
So far over 1,10,000 children from
both urban and rural areas in diffe-

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rent parts of the country have been
covered by these studies, which are
still in progress.

Shri Subodh Hansda: What are the
essential features that have been
found out by this survey conducted
by the Council of Medical Research
about the physical development of
children?

Dr. D. S. Raju: This is a very
important subject. The actual pro-
gress of the children can be gauged
by the improvements in weight and
growth. The Indian Council of Medi-
cal Research has established about
7 units all over India covering some
geographical areas and has given them
a *pro forma* to conduct investigation.
They want to know details about the
growth, weight of children at specific
age, periods and their development of
chest etc. Social conditions, economic
factors and sanitation are all factors
that have to be taken into considera-
tion. The details have not yet been
received.

Shri Subodh Hansda: May I know
whether it has also been discovered
that the climatic condition is one of
the essential features for the growth
and development of children? If so,
what kind of climate is most essential
for the growth of children?

Dr. D. S. Raju: Investigations are
being conducted on such lines.

Shri Hem Barua: May I know
whether it is a fact that the National
Nutrition Advisory Committee has
suggested the prohibition of the use
of milk for the preparation of sweets
so that milk may be made available
for the nutrition of children? If so,
what is the reaction of Government
to this suggestion?

Mr. Speaker: This relates only to the official survey of the growth and development of children.

Shri Hem Barua: They have made a suggestion like that, Sir.

Mr. Speaker: Whether the use of milk for sweets will affect the growth or not is a different question.

Shri Hem Barua: It is a question of the nutrition of children.

Shri Jaipal Singh: May we know whether the Ministry of Health has had even a look at the Patiala Ad Hoc Committee report where the recommendation was made that we should care for the young people as far as physical development is concerned—just as sports—and 'Catch them young' was to be their motto? Has anything been done in the Ministry of Health regarding that?

Dr. D. S. Raju: That is also under consideration.

Shri S. M. Banerjee: I want to know, even apart from this check-up and medical survey, what preventive measures have been taken to fight common diseases among children.

Mr. Speaker: That survey is still being conducted.

Shri S. M. Banerjee: Apart from that survey we wanted to know that.

Mr. Speaker: Before we get the results of the survey, does the hon. Member want some preventive measures to be taken?

Shri S. M. Banerjee: Yes, Sir; we want preventive measures to be adopted.

Mr. Speaker: Preventive measures against growth!

Shri S. M. Banerjee: No, Sir.

Dr. D. S. Raju: We must get these data before we can formulate our policies.

Shri Warrior: May I know whether the data collected from schools are

also examined by the several establishments which the hon. Minister was pleased to mention?

Dr. D. S. Raju: Food samples?

Shri Warrior: Are we using the data collected annually from the schools where medical examination is also done?

Dr. D. S. Raju: That also is part of our scheme.

Shri Prabhat Kar: May I know whether this enquiry is being conducted region-wise because in India we have found that there are certain regions where generally the development of the children is on the very low side?

Mr. Speaker: The question is whether it would be conducted region-wise.

Dr. D. S. Raju: There are two approaches: one is the cross-sectional approach and the other is the longitudinal approach.

Shrimati Savitri Nigam: May I know when the Survey Committee is going to submit its report and what age-group has been taken up by the Survey Committee?

Dr. D. S. Raju: It will take some time. It is a very big problem and we want sufficient data and information to formulate the policies. It takes a long time.

Shrimati Savitri Nigam: What age-group has been taken?

Dr. D. S. Raju: All age-groups.

श्री ब्रजल सिंह : क्या मंत्री महोदय यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि कितने वर्ष से कितने वर्ष तक की उम्र के बच्चों का सर्वे कराया गया है ?

Mr. Speaker: It is the same question. Next question.