

# LOK SABHA DEBATES

(Part I—Questions and Answers) 25.03.2015

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## LOK SABHA

Friday, 17th February, 1956

*The Lok Sabha met at Eleven of the  
Clock.*

[MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER  
SHRI ANANTHASAYANAM AYYANGAR  
*in the Chair*]

### ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

#### JAUNDICE EPIDEMIC IN DELHI

\*41. **Shri Radha Raman** : Will the Minister of Health be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have received the results of the data collected in a survey conducted by the Indian Council of Medical Research during Jaundice epidemic;

(b) what were the causes which led to the outbreak of this epidemic; and

(c) the number of deaths reported and the total number of patients recorded so far?

**The Minister of Health (Rajkumari Amrit Kaur)** : (a) No.

(b) The matter has been enquired into by Committee appointed by the Chief Commissioner, Delhi. The Committee submitted its report to the Chief Commissioner on the 7th February, 1956. A copy of the report is laid on the Table of the Lok Sabha [Placed in the Library. See No. S-30/195

(c) The number of cases recorded, and deaths in Delhi from this diseases upto the 17th January 1956 was 7,220 and 73 respectively.

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**Shri Radha Raman** : May I know whether the Government have taken the figures of cases which were not actually recorded through hospitals and their total number in the city, or are all these cases reported in the hospitals?

**Rajkumari Amrit Kaur** : It has not been possible for me to get the figures of all cases that have not come to hospitals. Too I can only get the record of deaths that have occurred in the hospitals because infective jaundice was not a notifiable disease.

**Shri Radha Raman** : May I know what steps were taken by the Government after it came to their notice that the jaundice epidemic was existing in Delhi and that it was due to water contamination, in order to remove that cause and help the citizens to live a healthy life?

**Rajkumari Amrit Kaur** : The steps taken by the Government to control the spread of jaundice were these. First of all, super-chlorination of water which was done from the very beginning. The people were advised to boil their drinking water as an additional safeguard. The public were advised to take precautions regarding personal and domestic hygiene and also to preserve cleanliness of their surroundings. The public were also advised not to take foodstuffs that had been exposed to dust and flies and not to patronise insanitary hotels and restaurants. Facilities for hospitalisation were provided for. The gamma globulin was used in hospitals to protect expectant mothers against the infection. The disease was declared notifiable. Frequent raids were organised by the health staff in some areas to destroy articles of food exposed to dust and flies.

**Shri Radha Raman :** May I know how long the Government will take to decide on the report which the Chief Commissioner has submitted to the Government and may I know whether the Government contemplate to take some action against those persons due to whose neglect such a thing has happened in Delhi and caused so much loss of life ?

**Rajkumari Amrit Kaur :** Such recommendations as have been given in the report which can be implemented straightway are being implemented. The others are receiving active consideration because many of them are long term programmes and cannot be implemented overnight. I would request you, Mr. Deputy-Speaker, to ask the Members to read the report first before they make remarks and say that any person or persons were actually responsible for the deaths.

**श्री एम० एल० द्विवेदी :** मैं यह जानना चाहता हूँ कि इस रोग को अच्छा करने के लिये क्या किसी ऐसी औषधि का पता चलाया गया है जिससे यह जल्दी अच्छा हो जाय, और अमेरिका से जो दवा (औषधि) आई है उसका क्या असर (प्रभाव) हुआ है और वह कितनी मात्रा में आई है ?

**राजकुमारी अमृत कौर :** जान्डिस (पीलिया) तो सिर्फ एक सिस्टम (लक्षण) है और इसके लिये हमारे पास जो दवायें हैं वह बहुत काफी हैं। एक प्रिवेन्टिव (रोग निवारक) गामा ग्लोबुलिन हमारे सामने है जिसकी और देशों में काफी चर्चा हुई है। इस दवा को हम उन्हीं लोगों को दे रहे हैं जिनके ऊपर इस बीमारी के हमला करने से बुरा असर होता हो।

**Dr. Jaisoorya :** Was all this advice given without knowing according to the answer to part (a), the cause of the disease?

**Rajkumari Amrit Kaur :** Part (a) is whether the data that was asked to be collected by the Medical Research Committee had been received. That has not altogether been received. But, there is reason to believe that contamination of water supply was the primary cause of the epidemic.

**सैठ गोविन्द दास :** क्या इस पीलिया रोग के लिये किसी आयुर्वेद की दवा का उपयोग हुआ है, और क्या यह सिद्ध हुआ है कि आयुर्वेद की दवा इसके लिये बहुत ज्यादा मुफीद (उपयोगी) होती है ?

**राजकुमारी अमृत कौर :** यह तो मैं नहीं कहूंगी कि ज्यादा मुफीद होती है लेकिन वैद्यक की दवायें जान्डिस के लिये काफी अच्छी हैं। लेकिन यह मामूली जान्डिस नहीं थी, यह इन्फेक्टिव (संक्रामक) जान्डिस थी। इस जान्डिस और मामूली जान्डिस में कुछ फर्क (अन्तर) भी है।

**Dr. Rama Rao :** In view of the fact that an accidental contamination of the drinking water of Delhi has caused so much havoc and in view of the fact that millions of people are drinking filtered and unfiltered water from the Jumna, how long will the Government allow the criminal contamination of the Jumna with sullage water from Delhi?

**Rajkumari Amrit Kaur :** It is a very serious problem and it should be taken in hand at once and I propose to do so.

**Shri K. K. Basu :** The hon. Minister said that she has no figures. May we know whether instructions were given to private practitioners to report each case of jaundice infection?

**Rajkumari Amrit Kaur :** I am not sure whether the Delhi health authorities did ask the private practitioners to give notice. I would like the Lok Sabha to remember that jaundice is a symptom and every jaundice case may not always have been a case of infective jaundice due to this epidemic.

**Sardar Hukam Singh :** Besides this enquiry ordered by the Chief Commissioner, may I know whether Central Government or any State Government has instituted any enquiry as to the cases that have happened outside Delhi whether they were due to any infection carried from Delhi or there were independent causes for those cases?

**Rajkumari Amrit Kaur :** We asked the neighbouring States to let us know whether cases of jaundice had developed in their areas and we tried according to the time factor to see whether they were due to infection carried from here. In a few instances it was so. I may say that infective jaundice has been raising its head over the last two years all over the country and it was for that reason that the Indian Council of Medical Research was asked to make a special investigation into this particular virus.

**Shri Bansilal :** May I know whether the Government are aware of the fact that jaundice as an epidemic is in Jaipur City, Rajasthan, and what steps have been taken?

**Rajkumari Amrit Kaur :** The States are autonomous in the matter of health. The Rajasthan Government will naturally take such steps as it considers necessary.

**Several Hon. Members :** *rose.*

**Mr. Deputy-Speaker :** I find a number of hon. Members wanting to put supplementaries. We have already taken 10 minutes over this.

**Some Hon. Members :** This is very important.....

**Mr. Deputy Speaker :** I agree. Hon. Members ought to hear what I say before they make suggestions. This is a very important question. But, do hon. Members want me to allot half an hour in the Question hour? Therefore, hon. Members will kindly read this report. If they want any particular time to be set apart for any discussion, I will certainly do so. In the meanwhile, after reading the report, if the hon. Members have got any doubt, they may send a letter and we will send it on to the hon. Minister. Still, if they are not satisfied, it is open to the Members to suggest that I must allot a particular time. I will do so. This is a very important and serious matter. I am sure both the Government and the Members are interested in settling it.

**Shri Bansal :** Before you call the next question, may I suggest that copies of this report be circulated to all the Members?

**Mr. Deputy-Speaker :** Is it a very big report?

**Rajkumari Amrit Kaur :** The report is about 100 pages. I only received it a few days ago. I shall cyclostyle it and.....

**Mr. Deputy-Speaker :** I shall ask the Minister to send copies of the recommendations.

**Some Hon. Members :** No, no.

**Mr. Deputy-Speaker :** And so far as the report is concerned a number of copies will be placed here.

**Rajkumari Amrit Kaur :** I shall place as many copies as possible.

**Mr. Deputy-Speaker :** Hon. Members may consult them.

#### DELHI SUBURBAN RAILWAY SERVICE

\*42. **Shri Bansal :** Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 583 on the 16th December, 1955 and state :

(a) whether the scheme for a Circuit Railway around Delhi and New Delhi has been finalised ;

(b) if so, the main features thereof ; and

(c) what will be the first stage of its implementation ; and

(d) the estimated expenditure to be incurred thereon?

**The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Railways and Transport (Shri Shah Nawaz Khan) :** (a) Not yet, Sir. The proposal is still at the investigation stage.

(b) to (d). Do not arise.