

after 6th December in Uttar Pradesh had boosted the morale of some of the culprits but when Shri Rajesh Pilot took charge of the internal security, he took certain bold steps and by the end of February the authority of the Government came to be respected. It had some effect, but not only in Ghazhiabad and Eastern U.P. but in the entire U.P., incidents of kidnapping have increased manifold. Our present ordinary law-section 364- has failed to check such crimes. In such incidents of kidnapping, murders are committed and money is extorted. So, I would like to know from the Government whether any special arrangement is being considered to check such crimes in Uttar Pradesh.

SHRIP.M. SAYEED: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the information given by the hon. Member regarding rise in the incidents of crimes is correct. But in order to condemn it, I have read out a long list. Strict measures would be taken to condemn the rise of the crime, in any corner of the country and it would be checked.

Import of Cancer Medicines

*325. SHRI RAM LAKHAN SINGH YADAV: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a number of medicines for the treatment of cancer are being imported;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the efforts made by the Government to manufacture these medicines in the country?

[English]

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI PABAN SINGH GHATOWAR): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) 21 anti-cancer medicines such as Bleomycin Oil Suspension, 5 - Fluorouracil Injections and Tamoxifen Tablets etc. are imported.

(c) The Government has encouraged the indigenous manufacture of anti-cancer medicines by abolishing tariff on anti-cancer bulk drugs; keeping them out of price control and not imposing any excise duty.

[Translation]

SHRI RAM LAKHAN SINGH YADAV: Mr. Chairman, Sir, in this country, cancer is such a disease for which no suitable medicine has so far been invented. While replying to a question asked in December, 1991, the Government had stated that twenty-six drugs were being imported from outside for the use of cancer patients and every possible effort was being made to import these drugs. Keeping view of importing these 26 drugs and providing every possible assistance to the patients, I would like to know from the hon. Minister as to how many persons suffer from this disease yearly and the percentage of patients who get these medicines and the result of these medicines on the patients and the percentage of patients who survive after taking these medicines.

[English]

SHRI PABAN SINGH GHATOWAR: Sir, the Government of India is giving all possible help to the indigenous producers of anti-cancer drugs. According to the estimate, there are about 1.52 million cancer patients in this country. The Government of India, with the collaboration of the State Governments is taking all possible steps to give treatment to these unfortunate cancer patients of this country and to provide anti-cancer drugs to them.

[Translation]

SHRI RAM LAKHAN SINGH YADAV: There are 26 drugs for the treatment of cancer but how many dealers are selling them. The Minister has stated that he is encouraging the indigenous production of anti-cancer drugs. But till date Cipla is the only company which has been able to invent the anti-cancer drug, its one M.P. of 5 mg costs Rs. 210, and that too is not always

available. In such a situation the doctors hesitate to prescribe this drug. It is not available in hospitals too and the patients are advised that there is no treatment for the cancer and they need not stay in hospitals. You are importing these medicines from abroad then what is the reason that only one company in our country is manufacturing it and why this facility is not being provided to other companies also. Have you done any research in this field and any progress has been made in this regard? Should we hope that there would be more drugs for the treatment of dying cancer patients? Along with that, have you made any effort to make these drugs cheap?

[English]

SHRI PABAN SINGH GHATOWAR: Sir, the Government of India imports 21 anti-cancer drugs from the foreign countries. In India six anti-cancer drugs are produced by two companies. Government is giving all possible help to these indigenous manufacturers about which I have already stated in my written reply. These anti-cancer drugs are kept out of price control. There is no imposition of excise duty and there is no traffic on these drugs. These are the encouragements given by Government of India so that the indigenous manufacturers can produce anti-cancer drugs without any difficulty and make them available to the cancer patients of this country.

PROF. SAVITHRI LAKSHMANAN: Last week it has been reported in a number of newspapers that an Ayurvedic oil is found to be effective in the treatment of cancer. An old house at Guruvayoor in Kerala was under repair and during this process, an old manuscript in palm leaves was discovered. This manuscript contained the details of the combination of the contents of this rare oil which can be used for the treatment of cancer. It is stated that there are clear-cut mentions about some medicines which could be used for internal consumption also. The owner of the book could dare to recommend the application of external medicines only. And the newspapers say that even by applying the oil externally, one or two patients

were saved from death. Rather it is better to say that they are saved from an acute attack of this disease. I will collect the address of the owner and details of this particular medicine. Now my question is this.

Will you please extend all possible help to encourage production of this precious indigenous medicine and try to solve the technical objections that may arise in connection with the production and application of this divine medicine.

SHRI PABAN SINGH GHATOWAR: Sir, I am grateful to the hon. Member for the information that she has given. I would very much request her to pass on all this information to us. Before introducing any new medicine a lot of scientific and clinical examinations and counter-examinations are to be conducted and then only that medicine can be prescribed for use. The Government will definitely give all possible help to produce indigenous anti-cancer medicine in this country.

[Translation]

SHRI DAU DAYAL JOSHI: Honourable Mr. Speaker, Sir, cancer has been described in detail as "Karkatarburd" disease in 'Vrahatri Charak Sanhita' in Ayurved. In view of the detailed reference made by the hon. lady Member I would like to know from you as Minister in charge of Ayurveda whether you would make some proper arrangement for gathering information in the field of cure for cancer disease. Second part of my question is that today it has been stated in the reply to question No. 334 that Indian Medical Council has been given Rs. 135 lakh whereas for Ayurveda research an amount of only Rs. 16 lakh has been sanctioned. It should be kept in mind that after an intensive research on the Neem Oil, Ayurved has invented a special medicine named 'Pipladi Yoga' for family Planning. I would like to point out that by spending millions of rupees, no break-through has been achieved in Family Planning programme through Allopathy and these two Ayurveda medicines have been ignored.....

MR. SPEAKER: Joshi ji, what is relation between cancer and Family Planning?

SHRI DAU DAYAL JOSHI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to know whether there is any proposal to save foreign exchange through producing anti-cancer Ayurvedic drugs.

[English]

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND): As far as Ayurvedic medicine is concerned, it is true that there are many secrets. I am thankful to the hon. Member for making reference of Charakh Sanhita which is a basic thing to the very production of Ayurvedic medicine. There is one branch of Aayurveda which is called, Ras-Shastra. In this country there are vaidhsital who have the secret of this treatment but they are not willing to part with that secret by way of teaching. I assure the House that all efforts will be made to encourage such teachings so as to develop this medicine and we will see that this is made available to the suffering people. All possible encouragement, that is required to develop the Indian system of medicine, will be given by the Government. (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: This is not going on record. Nothing of this kind will go on record.

(Interruptions) *

SHRIMATISUSEELAGOPALAN: Sir, some of the important indigenous medicines are reported to be very good for cancer and such other diseases but these medicines, when referred to the All India Medical Insitute for clinical test, have to wait for a long time. I think this is because of the lack of facility there. I request that enough facilities should be provided in that hospital so that speedier clinical tests can be carried out. I have my own experience of this hospital. A medicine was referred to it for carrying out the clinical test but even after one year it could not be tested. So, I would like to know whether you will provide enough facilities in the All India Medical Institute so

that speedier clinical tests of these medicines could be carried out.

SHRI B. SHANKARANAND: The hon. Members suggestion is a suggestion for action. We well definetely see that clinical tests are carried out effectively and quickly and the results are made available for the treatment of cancer.

I would like to inform the House - I know personally- that there is an Ayurvedic hospital in the State of Kerala where they are undertaking research in Ayurveda for the treatment of such diseases.

SHRI SUNIL DUTT: Sir, cancer cases are on the increase in the country but the imported medicines are very expensive, especially for the pockets of poor people. Sometimes, you have to buy these medicines iin balckmarket because the people want to take even advantage on this. Even the medicines that are being manufactured here, are very expensive for a poor man to buy them.

I would like to ask the hon. Minister, through you, Sir, that just as we have Blood Banks all over India, can't we have the Life Saving Medicine Banks, that can be helpful for the poor people who can't afford these expensive medicines so that they can go to these Medicine Banks started by the Government of India and supported by the people to have the medicines for their treatment.

SHRI B. SHANKARANAND: This is a suggestion for netings.

SHRI M.R. KADAMBUR JANARTHANAN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, it is found that the cancer ailment medicines are being produced by Americans from green blood drawn out of a particular species of crabs which are found in the Sea Coast of US and Japan. The same species of crabs are even found in Balasore, the Sea Coast of Orissa. I want to know from the hon. Minister, has the Government got any proposal to manufacture cancer ailment medicines from the green blood drawn out of the particular species of crabs which are found in the

Orissa coast, so that you can utilise these valuable medicines and lessen imports.

SHRI PABAN SINGH GHATOWAR: I am thankful to the hon. Member for this information. But as at present, we do not have any such proposal.

SHRI M. R. KADAMBUR JANARTHANAN: The fisheries Ministry of Orissa Government had recommended this to you.

SHRI PABAN SINGH GHATOWAR: We do not have nay proposal at present.

SHRI SRIKANTA JENA: Shri This horse shoe crab is available in the Orissa Coast. NRO is doing some research on it. (*Interruptions*)

DR. K. D. JESWANI: Sir, as stated by the hon. Minister, it is a fact that more than two million patients are suffering from cancer in the country which are already notified. Out of them, most common cancers are Cervi and breast.

Sir, treatment of cancers is well-established in our country. There are number of centres for cancer treatment even at the district levels. Most of the equipments for diagnostic purposes and treatment pruposes are imported viz. whether they are radiological equipment, the Lasers or some such things. Out of this treatment part, chemotherapy, wehre these drugs are used, forms a very important part of treatment of cancer. Our scientists and oncologists are very well versed with this part of the treatment of chemotherapy since last twenty years. since I am attached to this Institute, I am saying that since last twenty years, there have not been any positive efforts to boost up poduction of these important drugs which are imported from the foreign countries.

I would like to ask the Minister whether, our ICMR has taken up any research work of any of the cancer drugs and is it supplying the information to our country of whether the Government themselves are inclining to

boost up the production through their own Governmental pharmaceutical enterprises and how much foreign exchange, you have to spend every year after importing these drugs. This is an important information. Please request the Minister to furnish this information.

SHRI PABAN SINGH GHATOWAR: Sir, I do not have eat present the information as to how much foreign exchange has been spent in importing the cancer drugs. I will collect the information and pass it on to the hon. Member From the Government's side, we are encouraging indigenou anti-cancer drug producers and we are also giving the scientific and analytical pupport from our chemical laboratory to these producers to have indigenou cancer drugs produced in the country. (*Interruptions*)

DR. K. D. JESWANI: He has absolutely avoided my question. It is absolutely pertinent. Sir, I would request him, through you, to give proper reply. (*Interruptions*)

DR. R. MALLU: when cancer is established, there is no proper medicine. But there are pre-cancerous conditions which are established. If treatment is given to the pre-cancerous conditions, then cancer can be avoided on it can be cured.

I would like to know from the hon Minister through you what steps have bene taken by the Government of India identify the pre-cancerous conditions and treat them at district level, taluka level and primary health centre level so that cancer can be prevented in a country like India?

What other steps have been taken by the Government of India to identify pre-cancerous conditions?

SHRI PABAN SINGH GHATOWAR: The Government of India is having then regional centres of cancer research and treatment Development ancology Wing of the Medical College and Hospitals, we are giving financia help to the Medical colleges to have these wings in their medical colleges

We are also helping the State Governments financially to set up chemo-therapy units. The Government of India has a scheme to help the voluntary organisations which are coming forward for cancer treatment. There is a scheme to help them financially.

SHRI SRIKANTA JENA: There is a kind of blue blot available from the horse shoe crab. (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: May I request Members not to drown questions and answers in the conferences that are being held in the House

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: Please take your seat. If I have allowed you to ask a question, it does not mean you can ask a second question also.

DR. R. MALLU: My question is quite different.

MR. SPEAKER: Please sit down. No, no, I am not allowing you. This kind of an argument cannot go on in this House. Please understand this thing: You meet the Minister later on. Please sit down.

DR. R. MALLU: I am sorry, Sir.

SHRI SRIKANTA JENA: Now, the National Institute of Oceanography is doing research on the blue blot available in the horse shoe crab in the Orissa coast, which is one important input for anti-cancer drugs. Will your Ministry help the National Institute of Oceanography so that they can go in this research so that the import of this blue blot from Japan and America can be avoided?

SHRI B. SHANKARANAND: I must thank the hon. Member that he has brought this thing to my notice. Definitely, we will be in touch with the National Institute of Oceanography and get the material, and if any support is needed, we will definitely do that.

DR. KRUPASINDHU BHOI: This is a

very serious thing and the Minister is well aware of the fact. While he was Minister in the eighth Lok Sabha, he had said something about it.

We are following the British system of medicine and the Indian system of medicine we are completely forgetting. Basing on this, by having a committee headed by Mr. Dhar and others, they had submitted a proposal to the Government to have an Institute of Indian system of medicine like AIIMS in any part of the country where generic herbs, non-vulnerable herbs are available in plenty? If so, what is the present position?

In this financial year or in the next financial year, will they set up an institute on the lines of AIIMS in any part of the country?

SHRI B. SHANKARANAND: He is talking about the Indian system of medicine what I can understand from his question is that to must help the Indian system of medicine including Ayurvedic, sidha, Homoeopathy and Unani. All these systems of medicines are having their own research activities.

DR. KRUPASINDHU BHOI: When you were the Minister you had appointed a committee to examine this matter, and you told that you would have an institute of Indian system of medicines on the lines of AIIMS in any part of the country.

SHRI B. SHANKARANAND: Now in all the districts they are having their own committees and the research institutes are there. We are in touch with these committees; these committees are functioning within the Ministry itself. We are taking due care to see that all those systems get due encouragement.

[Translation]

SHRI RAJNATH SONKAR SHASTRI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, in Uttar Pradesh and Bihar, there is only one cancer institute named 'Bhartiya Rail Cancer Research Institution' located in Varanasi. There is a heavy shortage of modern machinery in this

institution. There is no facility of Catscan which is must for cancer treatment. through you, I would like to ask the Health Minister whether he is going to help this important cancer institution by consulting the Railway Ministry.

[English]

SHRI PABAN SINGH GHATOWAR: There are schemes under which the Central Government helps this type of institutes. But the proposal must come from the State Governments.

WRITTEN ANSWER TO QUESTIONS

[English]

Lead-Free Petrol

*323. SHRI MANORANJAN BHAKTA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited has signed a contract with the Italian Company, Snamprogetti, for transfer of technology to produce lead-free petrol; and

(t) if so, the salient features thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (CAPT. SATISH KUMAR SHARMA): (a) and (b). Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited has signed an agreement with M/s. SNAM PROGETTI, Italy for obtaining a process license to manufacture 30,000 TPA of Methyl, Oltaly for obtaining a process license to manufacture 30,000 TPA of Methyl Tertiary Butyl Ether at its refinery in Bombay. The estimated cost of the project is approximately Rs. 32.7 crores and would be implemented in about 33 months.

[Translation]

Health Services Centres in U.P.

*326. SHRI ASTTBHUJA PRASAD SHUKLA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state.

(a) the number of Primary Health Centres, Sub-Centres and Community Health Centres functioning in Uttar Pradesh; and

(b) the steps taken by the Government to provide medical facilities to the Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes, poor and backward people residing in remote rural areas?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND):

(a) Sub-Centres	20,153
Primary Health Centres	3,730
Community Health Centres	248

(b) In Uttar Pradesh as on 31-3-1992, 1,376 Sub-Centres and 189 Primary Health Centres have been set up under the Tribal Sub Plan.[†] 4,434 Sub-centres, 416 Primary Health Centers, and 63 Community Health Centres have been set up in predominantly Scheduled Caste villages/basties with 20% population under the Special Component Plan as on 31-3-1991.

[English]

Artificial Ripening of Mangoes

*327. SHRI RAM KAPSE: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state: