

occurred in Nagpur too. The Central Agency does not know of it. What information does the Government has regarding those who indulge in selling of children.

MR. SPEAKER: This question was asked just now and the Minister, next to you, had replied to it.

SHRI DATTA MEGHE: This is going on in large scale in Maharashtra. Are you going to ask the Maharashtra Government or is there any Central agency to check this?

[English]

SHRI K.V. THANGKA BALU: Sir, we have very clear cut directions and guidelines issued by the Ministry for the adoption of children. We have not received any report from the Maharashtra Government so far. If the hon. Member gives me in writing what is the deficiency, certainly we will look into that and sort out this problem. We are very serious about it.

[Translation]

SHRI CHHEDI PASWAN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, an uniform adoption Law has not yet been enacted in India. Hindus can adopt children under the Hindu Adoption Act, 1956, whereas others can adopt children under Parents and Guardians Act, 1890. India is a one country and yet there are separate laws in this regard. Through you, I would like to know from the Minister as to when the Government is going to enact an uniform adoption law in the country.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Well, it is a very big question. If the Minister wants to reply, he can.

[Translation]

SHRI SITARAM KESRI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the nation belongs to followers of different religions. The present laws respect the religious beliefs of all the people. And as far as the question of adoption is concerned, it is not new, it has been in the country and in the society for ages. But, there seems to be a justification behind the question, raised by the Hon. Member and it deserves serious consideration. But we have to keep in view the beliefs of the people belonging to different religions.

[English]

Health Care

* 304. SHRI ANNA JOSHI: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the World Bank has approved a loan for three massive schemes for elimination of leprosy, controlling blindness and containing T.B. in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the steps taken by the Government to avail this loan at the earliest; and

(d) the time by which these schemes are likely to be launched?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI PABAN SINGH GHATOWAR): (a) to (d) Yes, Sir. World Bank have approved a Credit of \$85 million for the National Leprosy Elimination Programme Project. The Blindness Control Project is ripe for negotiating a Credit of about \$117 million. T.B. Control Project is

in an advanced stage of consideration by the World Bank.

SHRI ANNA JOSHI: To part (d) of the question, the time by which these schemes are likely to be launched, answer has not been given. That should be given.

I would like to know whether the Government has conducted any survey about the need of the leprosy elimination programme in different States. If yes, which are those States and how this amount of 85 million dollars is to be distributed among those States? I would also like to know whether a part of this loan be utilised for helping those institutes which are already engaged in leprosy eradication work for so many years. If yes, how?

SHRI PABAN SINGH GHATOWAR: The first part of the question is about the status of the World Bank aided programmes. The National Leprosy Elimination Programme Project is already approved. The National Blindness Control Project is at the final stage of negotiation. About the TB Control Project, the pre-appraisal is expected by January 1994.

The second part of the question was about the National Leprosy Eradication Programme. We have completed the negotiations with the World Bank. There is an amount of Rs. 302 crore for giving to the Leprosy Eradication Programmes mainly in the districts of West Bengal, Karnataka, Kerala, Maharashtra, Manipur, Arunachal Pradesh, Sikkim, Daman and Diu and Andaman and Nicobar Islands. They would be benefited by these schemes.

SHRI ANNA JOSHI: He has to give more information. I have asked whether a

part of this loan is going to be utilised for helping those institutes which are already doing leprosy eradication work in different parts of the country for a long time.

SHRI PABAN SINGH GHATOWAR: The main aim of this project is, the financial assistance from the World Bank would also be provided to support the National Leprosy Eradication Programme for extending continuous monitoring and evaluation of the programme. It will help to develop suitable software package.

About helping NGOs, NGOs are generating their own resources. If the NGOs come to the Government with their proposal, definitely the Government will look into their proposal.

SHRI ANNA JOSHI: You have earmarked a part of it...

MR. SPEAKER: You got an assurance. That is an assurance. Now you come to the second supplementary.

SHRI ANNA JOSHI: For the leprosy eradication programme you have got the loan. The Blindness Control Project and the TB Control Project are in the pipeline, I suppose. I would like to know at what stage the negotiation and consideration are and how many more months it will take to finalise the loan.

SHRI PABAN SINGH GHATOWAR: About the National Blindness Control Project I have already said that it is at the final stage of negotiation. About the TB Control Project the pre-appraisal is expected by January 1994.

DR. VASANT NIWRUTTI PAWAR: For the elimination of leprosy, a National Leprosy Elimination Programme Project is being undertaken. My question is, in the

elimination of leprosy the lepers are developing contracture of hands as well as depression of the nose and there is a social stigma.

The most important part of treatment in leprosy is the rehabilitation of the lepers. Otherwise, they are forced to do all illegal professions. My question is this. The World Bank has approved a credit of 85 million dollars. May I know as to whether the Government plans to give some amount, out of this fund, for the rehabilitation of the lepers after their medical treatment, to undertake some self-employment scheme or some jobs like house building, etc.?

SHRI PABAN SINGH GHATOWAR:

This scheme is mainly for the treatment of leprosy patients. In this scheme, we have included the surgical intervention also for their change—medical rehabilitation scheme is also included in this.

[*Translation*]

DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEYA:

Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Government have sought certain amount of finance from the World Bank for elimination of Leprosy, controlling, blindness and containing T.B. and a part of it has been received and negotiations are on for getting additional funds.

These diseases are continuously spreading T.B. as well as blindness is also spreading and the number of blind persons in the country is increasing. You are trying to get foreign loans for eradication of these diseases but do you also intend to provide assistance to those voluntary organisations which are doing a good job in the eradication of these diseases at national level so that in turn you may also get help for your cause.

MR. SPEAKER: The question asked by Shri Joshi has already been replied. Come to the next question. If you wish to ask any other question you may please ask.

SHRI DAU DAYAL JOSHI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, from the reply given by the hon. Minister it appears as if all-out efforts are being made to eradicate one type of leprosy and apart from our domestic sources, help is also being sought from the foreign countries for the eradication of leprosy by the year 2000, but all these efforts are in the direction of eradication of only one type of leprosy. No efforts are being made to contain the dry type of leprosy. Your department is making all efforts for controlling decaying type of leprosy but in respect of other types of leprosy like the Leucoderma, which does not come under the decaying type and which is spreading very fast all over India and has been described as mild type of leprosy....

MR. SPEAKER: That is enough, Mr. Joshi. Now the Minister should reply whether any efforts are being made in this regard?

SHRI DAU DAYAL JOSHI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, in his reply, the hon. Minister has described the Leucoderma like a.....

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Joshi, a good question loses its sharpness in the abundance of words.

SHRI DAU DAYAL JOSHI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the department is not making any efforts in respect of the mild type of leprosy. I want to know, whether the department has any medicine for the cure of this type of leprosy and whether it has carried out any experiments in this regard? What efforts are being made by

the Department in order to prevent the spread of leucoderma? (*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER: I am not going to allow this. This is torturing the House. Please conclude.

(*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

SHRI DAU DAYAL JOSHI: There is no medicine available for the cure of low-est type of leprosy. Will you make special efforts to develop indigenous drugs such as Malkangne or Chalmogra in order to prevent the spread of this disease. What efforts are you making to prevent the spread of Leucoderma? (*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

SHRI PABAN SINGH GHATOWAR: In this scheme, with the aid of the World Bank, we are trying to cover all types of leprosy patients. (*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: You have replied. Yes, Shrimati Maliniji.

(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: He says that all types of leprosy are covered under this scheme.

(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: I will allow you, Shri Vajpayeeji, after Shrimati Malini puts her question.

(*Interruptions*)

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE: A question was put. I do not want to put any question. But the question put by the hon. Member should be suitably replied. What about leucoderma, that was the question. (*Interruptions*)

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND): It is a different question. It does not relate to the present question. (*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: No. Not like this.

(*Interruptions*)

SHRI B. SHANKARANAND: Leucoderma is not leprosy. Sir, I am sorry to say that leucoderma is not leprosy. It is a different type of disease. (*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

SHRI DAU DAYAL JOSHI: It might not be considered a type of leprosy under allopathy system of medicine but it is considered as such under Ayurvedic system of medicine.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Joshi, you please sit down. You have asked such a lengthy question that the real issue has been obliterated. Whether you are doing something in respect of Leucoderma or not?

[*English*]

I would like the Minister to reply to this question.

(*Interruptions*)

SHRI B. SHANKARANAND: Sir, need a separate question. (*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: Do you need a separate question for this kind of a question? Does that mean that the Government does not have any scheme to treat leucoderma?

(Interruptions)

SHRI B. SHANKARANAND: We do not have a scheme for leucoderma.
(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: All right.

(Interruptions)

SHRIMATI MALINI BHAT-TACHARYA: Sir, my question relates to the...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: That is the stand taken by the Minister. It is on record.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: You all can sit in your seats.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: You do not have to protect me. That is the stand of the Government.

(Interruptions)

SHRIMATI MALINI BHAT-TACHARYA: Sir, my question relates to the Minister's answer on the blindness control project. It has been said that a massive amount of 117 million dollars is being negotiated. I hope that this has already been planned as to how this money, if it comes to the Government, will be utilised. We find from the Government statistics that 81 per cent of the blindness

in our country is caused by cataract. However, the rate of achievement in cataract operations in the last few years has drastically come down.

MR. SPEAKER: Please come to the question.

SHRIMATI MALINI BHAT-TACHARYA: Yes, Sir, The rate of achievement is 92.53 per cent in 1991. Now, it has come down to 73.47 per cent. I would like to know as to whether the Ministry has reviewed the reason as to why there has been a decline in the achievement rate and whether a review will be undertaken before the planning for a foreign aid is done.

SHRI PABAN SINGH GHATOWAR: Sir, blindness is one of the major problems in our country. There are about 12 million blind people in our country. Today, every year about two million cataract people are added to our blind population. We have the infrastructure facilities to operate 1.2 million people only each year. The main purpose of this scheme is to build up the infrastructure so that we can achieve our target to minimise the blind population in our country.

[Translation]

SHRIMATI PRATIBHA DEVISINGH PATIL: Mr. Speaker, Sir, in a Metropolitan like Bombay, when a car halts at a traffic signal, beggars start begging by putting their bowls on the windows of the cars. Leprosy patients are also among those beggars. A scheme should be formulated for these leprosy patients in order to provide them treatment and also to put a check on begging. The State Government once took some initiative in this regard but thereafter nothing was done. I want to know, whether the State Government, in cooperation with the Central Government

will chalk out a scheme to provide treatment facilities for the leprosy patients as well as to put a check on begging.

[English]

SHRI PABAN SINGH GHATOWAR:

Sir, I have already stated that the rehabilitation part of it is looked after by the Social Welfare Ministry. But this World Bank project also includes Maharashtra for treatment and medical rehabilitation of the leprosy patients.

[Translation]

SHRI BRISHIN PATEL: Mr.

Speaker, Sir, I want to know from the hon. Minister whether the Government in co-operation with the World Bank and other countries has formulated any such scheme or fixed any target for eradicating leprosy from this country.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: I am very sorry. Probably you have not read the question as well as the reply.

SHRI PABAN SINGH GHATOWAR:

I have already stated in the earlier question as well as in this question that the main thrust of the World Bank project is on the leprosy patients in our country.

MR. SPEAKER: Right. The question has been replied.

Primary Health Centres

*306. SHRI SYED SHAHABUDDIN:

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Government had commissioned a study

by the Foundation for Research in Community Health in respect of the working of the Primary Health Centres;

(b) if so, the main findings of the study;

(c) whether any steps have been taken/proposed to be taken to improve the working of the Primary Health Centres and the sub-centres attached thereto; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI PABAN SINGH GHATOWAR: (a) and (b) The Foundation for Research in Community Health, Bombay was commissioned to conduct a study on, *inter-alia*, service delivery, to assess access to and benefit from delivery of health services.

The main finding is that among those using Government health services, majority do so because it is free of cost or less costly or is the only source available in remote areas.

(c) and (d): The Central Government issued guidelines to the State Govts./UTs from time to time for improving the quality of services rendered through rural health infrastructure.

In the 90 demographically weak districts, 5 Primary Health Centres per district have been taken up for upgradation of facilities to promote institutional deliveries and reduce maternal mortality.

SHRI SYED SHAHABUDDIN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, my question is related to the availability and quality of health services in the rural areas through the primary health centres. Unfortunately, the reply to