

LOK SABHA DEBATES

LOK SABHA

Wednesday, August 9, 1995/Sravana 18, 1917 (Saka)

The Lok Sabha met at Eleven of the Clock

[MR. SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

OBITUARY REFERENCE

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Hon. Members, I have to inform the House with profound sorrow of the passing away of our former colleague Chaudhry Sunder Singh.

Chaudhary Sunder Singh was a Member of Seventh and Eighth Lok, Sabha during 1980-89, representing Phillaur parliamentary constituency of Punjab.

Earlier, he had been a Member of the Punjab Legislative Assembly during 1946-80. During his long association with Punjab Legislature spanning well over three decades, he served his home State ably in various capacities. He was Parliamentary Secretary, Government of Punjab during 1946-47. His administrative skills came to fore, while he held the ministerial portfolios of Excise, Taxation and Labour, during 1952-56; Excise and Taxation during 1962-66 in the State Government of Punjab.

A veteran freedom fighter, renowned *Gandhivadi* and a social worker, he strove relentlessly for amelioration of the lot of the depressed and downtrodden classes as well as Landless tenants. He authored a thought-provoking social treatise entitled 'Untouchables'.

A widely travelled person, he nurtured a keen interest in the works of Swami Vivekananda, Guru Nanak and Mahatma Gandhi.

Chaudhary Sunder Singh passed away on 5th August, 1995 at his village Dalia Ramjanpur, district Gurdaspur, Punjab at the age of 89 years.

We deeply mourn the loss of this friend and I am sure, the House will join me in conveying our condolences to the bereaved family.

The house may now stand in silence for a short while as a mark of respect to the deceased.

11.02 hrs.

The Members then stood in silence for a short while

MR. SPEAKER: We propose to take up the references to the fiftieth year's remembrance of the incident in Hiroshima and Nagasaki and of the 9th August, 1942 Quit India Movement immediately after the Question Hour.

Now Question Number 141-Shri Phool Chand Verma.

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[English]

Ayurvedic Colleges

*141. SHRI PHOOL CHAND VERMA:
PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU:

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

(a) the total number of Ayurvedic Colleges in the country and the number of students admitted annually in these colleges;

(b) the number of registered Ayurvedic practitioners in the country;

(c) the traditional alternative system of medicines identified by the Government as a substitute to allopathy;

(d) whether any new scheme has been formulated to promote the Ayurvedic, Siddha and traditional system of medicine in the country and abroad;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI PABAN SINGH GHATOWAR)
(a) to (f). A statement is laid on the Table of the Lok Sabha.

STATEMENT

(a) 111 ayurvedic colleges with annual intake capacity of 5056.

(b) The number of registered ayurvedic practitioners in the country as on 31.12.1993 is 3,61,268.

(c) Ayurveda, Unani, Siddha, Homoeopathy not as substitutes but as independent systems of medicine in addition to allopathy.

(d) to (f). Important schemes for promoting and propagating these systems of medicine include, in addition to the establishment of a separate Department of Indian Systems of Medicine & Homoeopathy, the following:-

- (i) Strengthening of the educational institutions of the Indian Systems of Medicine and Homoeopathy.
- (ii) Revitalisation of Research in Indian Systems of Medicine and Homoeopathy by strengthening of research institutions.
- (iii) (a) Standardisation of ISM&H drugs and strengthening of drug control in ISM.

(b) Setting up of laboratory facilities for the testing of ISM& H drugs.

(c) Strengthening of Pharmacopoeial work in ISM&H.

(d) Promotion of Yoga and Naturopathy- research, training and institutional development.
- (iv) Development and cultivation of medicinal plants.

(v) Setting up of specialised ISM&H treatment centres.

[Translation]

SHRI PHOOL CHAND VERMA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, Ayurveda is five thousand year old Indian system of medicine. This system of medicine is widely used. It finds mention in Charak Samhita and other ancient literatures. Even today, this system of medicine has its utility and in this modern age, the Ayurvedic system of medicine has been recognised. Today, with the use of Ayurvedic system of Medicine such incurable diseases are being treated for which there is no treatment in Allopathy. But I regret to state that due to discriminatory policy of the Central Government, no justice has been done to Ayurveda and this system of medicine has not been encouraged to the desired extent. Fortunately, today the hon. Prime Minister is sitting here. I would like to remind him that he had stated in Indian Ayurveda Conference.....(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Please come to the question.

.....(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI PHOOL CHAND VERMA : I am coming to the question.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Now please come to the question directly.

[Translation]

SHRI PHOOL CHAND VERMA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am asking the question only.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: I am not going to allow this kind of question. You come to the question, please.

[Translation]

SHRI PHOOL CHAND VERMA: Please listen to me. In Indian Ayurveda Conference held in Nagpur in 1993, the hon. Prime Minister had said that a separate Ministry or Directorate could be set up to encourage Ayurveda. I, through you,

would like the hon. Prime Minister to tell us about the progress made so far in this direction and lay the details of the action taken by him in this regard, on the table of the House.

MR. SPEAKER: Your question is very good. Now, please sit down.

[English]

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI PABAN SINGH GHATOWAR): Sir, what our hon. Prime Minister has promised in the Ayurveda Conference is that according to his promise he created a separate Department of Indian systems of Medicine and the Department has already started functioning as a separate Department in our Health Ministry.

[Translation]

SHRI PHOOL CHAND VERMA: Perhaps, the hon. Minister could not understand my question. I have not said anything about the Department. I have only quoted the statement of the hon. Prime Minister. The hon. Prime Minister had said that a separate Ministry or a Directorate would be set up to encourage Ayurveda in the country. I would like to quote his statement published in a newspaper on December 28, 1993.

MR. SPEAKER: No you cannot quote from the newspaper. Should I explain you everything.

SHRI PHOOL CHAND VERMA: I agree with you but the hon. Prime Minister is sitting here. He should tell us whether he had said so or not. I am not talking about the Ministry. The Hon. Prime Minister should clarify it.

[English]

THE PRIME MINISTER (SHRI P.V. NARASIMHA RAO): I am here to explain. It was never my intention to talk about a separate Ministry. I only said, 'A Department which will be actually headed by a Minister on a whole-time basis.' That Minister has not been appointed still but the Department has been functioning independently and they are giving lot of encouragement to research and so on. If the hon. Members want, all the details can be given, but I did not promise a Ministry, Sir.

[Translation]

SHRI PHOOL CHAND VERMA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to ask another supplementary question.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: This will be a third question, but I am allowing you.

[Translation]

SHRI PHOOL CHAND VERMA: Even after the Prime Minister's statement, the position is not clear. Mr. Speaker, Sir, I seek your protection. The Prime Minister had also stated that through Ayurvedic system of medicine, cancer was also being treated. Then why a step-motherly treatment is being done to Ayurveda? What is the problem in forming a new and separate Ministry? If he forms a separate Ministry, people will remember him for imparting justice to Indian system of medicine during his tenure.

MR. SPEAKER: You are going out of the main question.

SHRI PHOOL CHAND VERMA: This is what the hon. Prime Minister had stated but today, he is deviating from his statement.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Come to the point. I am not allowing this kind of discussion.

[Translation]

SHRI PHOOL CHAND VERMA: Ayurvedic medicines are based on herbs and medicinal plants found in the forests. But due to large scale deforestation, the area where these herbs and medicinal plants grow is constantly decreasing. As a result, the production of Ayurvedic medicine is also being affected. Today, not only in India, but in the whole world the demand of Ayurvedic system of medicine and Ayurvedic medicines is increasing. In such a situation, the hon. Minister, in coordination with the Minister of Environment and Forests, should chalk out an action plan to check deforestation in the country and boost the production of herbs and medicinal plants so that we may be able to fulfil the demand of Ayurvedic medicines in the world.

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A.R. ANTULAY): The hon. Member must be aware that last week on the same day, while replying to a question of Ayurvedacharyas, I had stated that under the able guidance of the hon. Prime Minister we are trying to give encouragement to all sorts of Indian system of medicine.

A new department has already been opened and as the

hon. Prime Minister has just started, a separate Minister with independent charge will be appointed for this. Now, these three points have been clarified.

So far as the herbs are concerned, I had also stated that natural medicinal plants had more effect than the medicines prepared in the laboratory. So far as Ayurveda is concerned, we are trying to set up a big foundation for this purpose. Further, we are also trying to give more encouragement to Ayurveda in our country. The USA has already undertaken research work in the field of Ayurveda and it is adopting this system of medicine in the treatment of patients. As regards forests, environment and safe drinking water, We are planning to set up a high level committee. It will be set up very soon and will also consist of people working independently. After the committee presents the reports, we will apprise the hon. Prime Minister of the results of study group. Cabinet notes will be prepared and if the need be, we will bring a new legislation. This is all, I wanted to say.

[English]

PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU: I am happy that a new Department for pursuing this Indian system of medicines is being created. As I could understand, a separate Minister is also going to be made in charge of this. The history of Indian system of medicines traces back to some five thousand years. There is a lot of material available in ancient literature, but not in local languages. Nowhere a Chair of Excellency to trace back the entire history of Indian system of medicines has been created. With the star culture development of Allopathy with its prohibitive cost, people have been coming towards the Indian system of medicines. I would like to know from the Government whether research activities and educational facilities are going to be provided at a higher plan, so that Chairs can be created in Universities and the ancient literature can be traced back which will form the foundation for the future research and development in this field.

Secondly, medicinal herbs, though supposed to be widely available in forests, are getting extinguished. I would like to know whether the Government is thinking of starting a research plan to cultivate these medicinal herbs, so that that will form the raw material for preparing these medicines.

MR. SPEAKER: It is already there.

[Translation]

SHRI A.R. ANTULAY: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have already replied to it. I have made it clear that under the guidance of

the hon. Prime Minister, we want to set up a research foundation, about which the hon. Member has just mentioned. If herbs are not included in the research work of the Foundation, then there will be use of research on Ayurveda. If a thing was used five thousand years ago, be it written or unwritten, we will undertake research work on that also. You will come to know very soon about the first step taken in this direction.

[English]

THE PRIME MINISTER (SHRI P.V.NARASIMHA RAO): I would like to submit that it is not true that literature is not available on Ayurveda. Ironically, a lot of literature has been produced by foreign scholars, scholars in other countries, doctors, allopaths. I have myself seen at the residence of Dr. Melkote, who was a Member of Lok Sabha for two terms, in Hyderabad five hundred very big volumes written by foreign authors on Ayurveda, all aspects of Ayurveda. So, a fund of literature is available. Unfortunately, it is not available in our languages. Either it is available in Sanskrit or in English and other languages but not in our languages. So once the Department takes up this work, I am sure that it would be a part of their job to get this knowledge brought into regional languages and made available to the ordinary people. That is how we have to start making people conscious of their own traditional medicine. And this would be done. I am quite sure about it.

[Translation]

SHRI DAU DAYAL JOSHI (KOTA): Mr. Speaker, Sir, there are 46 Ayurvedic colleges in the country. I would like to know from the hon. Prime Minister the number of Ayurvedic colleges being run by the Central Government and by private sector, separately.

Secondly, the capitation fee being charged by the colleges running under private sector is very high. At the same time, private sector colleges are not given any protection and financial assistance by the Government. My question is whether the Central Government propose to open Ayurvedic colleges in all majorities in the country with its own funds. If so, by when end if not, the reasons therefor?

[English]

SHRI PABAN SINGH GHATOWAR: Sir, there are three Central institutions for higher education in Ayurveda. One is, Banaras Hindu University. That is looked after by the Ministry of Human Resource Development. The National Institute of Ayurveda, Jaipur, is directly under the Health Minister and the

Gujarat Ayurveda Institute, Institute for Post-Graduate Teaching and Research in Ayurveda, Jamnagar, is also directly under the Central Government, that is the Health Ministry. And we are giving all possible assistance to these institutions to develop Ayurveda education in the country.

[Translation]

SHRI DAU DAYAL JOSHI: This is not sufficient. There are Allopathic colleges in a large number all over the country, whereas Ayurvedic colleges... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Please sit down.

SHRI DAU DAYAL JOSHI: My question was whether the Central Government will open Ayurvedic colleges in major cities?... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: He has the best knowledge about medicinal herbs.

(Interruptions)

SHRI GOVINDA CHANDRA MUNDA: Mr. Speaker, Sir,... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: You speak in Hindi. If you want reply to your question and if you have not informed him earlier, you should ask in Hindi.

[English]

SHRI GOVINDA CHANDRA MUNDA: Sir, so many Oriya MPs are there. They can understand Oriya. They also know English.

May I know from the Government how many students are admitted to the colleges, what are their qualifications and how many have been passed? I want to know whether the Government would encourage the tribal people and the Scheduled Castes in this regard. How many Director are there from these sections all over India? Is it separate or mixed with the Allopathic and Ayurvedic?

[Translation]

My second question is that AIDS has spread all over the country today. We have made inquiries from all the hospitals and they say that they are facing on city of medicines. Then what is the difficulty in opening for Ayurvedic systems of medicine.?

[English]

What is the difficulty with the Central Government regarding AIDS?

SHRI PABAN SINGH GHATOWAR: Sir, in my written reply, I have mentioned that there are 111 Ayurvedic colleges. And the student intake per year is 5,056.

[Translation]

SHRIMATI PRATIBHA DEVI SINGH PATIL: Mr. Speaker Sir, all systems of medicine, be it Yunani, Ayurveda, Siddha, Homoeopathy or any other system, have their own importance. Any single system of medicine cannot cure all diseases. The treatment may vary from one system to another. It is said that modern medicine or Allopathy does not have any treatment for liver cirrhosis whereas Ayurveda has a very effective treatment for this disease. In the case of Asthma acupressure gives more relief. As regards subject matter and the scope of research, these have been covered in the reply already given. But today, a patient has to go to different doctors to take medicines of different systems. It may be possible that treatment of all systems of medicines is made available in one hospital by appointing the experts of particular, system. This system has been adopted by private practitioners in Bombay and other places and they are getting good response.

Therefore, if experts of different systems of medicine are posted under one cover, the patient can opt for the treatment of his choice. Otherwise in Allopathic treatment, the patient has to undergo all tests like stool, urine, blood etc. I would like to know from the hon. Minister as to whether the Government proposes to take any step in this regard?

SHRI A.R. ANTULAY: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I think that it will not be proper to mix up all systems of medicine. However, if the hon. Member wants to say that every discipline should be promoted then it will be promoted, be it Allopathy, Homoeopathy, Yunani, Ayurveda or Siddha and each systems of medicine will be brought under one roof. As the hon. Member has said, if a particular treatment is not available in one system of medicine, the patient can go to another department or discipline. But we do not want to mix up one discipline or pathy with another because it will be very difficult to know whether the mixture is Ayurveda or any other pathy. However, we will have to think to bring all disciplines under one roof.

SHRI UPENDRA NATH VERMA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to know from the hon. Minister as to whether the

Government has ever drawn its attention towards Naturopathy? Is it an affordable pathy. Whether the Government has set up any centre anywhere in the country where treatment is being given through Naturopathy?

[English]

SHRI PABAN SINGH GHATOWAR: Under this Department, we are also developing the Naturopathy. In Pune, we are having a National centre for Naturopathy. We are trying to develop the centre.

[Translation]

SHRI LAKSHMI NARAIN MANI TRIPATHI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, Ayurvedic System of Medicine is suffering a downfall because the old system which the Ayurvedic colleges were practicing has been modified. As the hon. Health Minister has told that two systems cannot work under one roof. Ayurveda and Allopathy are simultaneously being taught in Kashi Hindu Vishwavidyalaya, Jamnagar college and all other Ayurvedic colleges. As a result thereof, the student of these colleges does neither become a scholar of Ayurveda nor Allopathy. But, after completing his course he writes against his name, Dr. so and so ADMS. That is why, Ayurveda is suffering a downfall.

Sir, through you, I would like to know from the hon. Health Minister as to whether the Government will set up Ayurvedic colleges to impart education of Ayurveda to the students as was imparted in old days in Ayurvedic colleges and at Akhil Bhartiya Ayurveda Vidhyapeeth situated in Delhi, from where scholars of Ayurvedic system could come out with the knowledge of Botany and Herbs and this country may be benefited by their knowledge?

[English]

SHRI PABAN SINGH GHATOWAR: Sir, we are developing the Rashtriya Ayurvedic Vidhyapeeth and the hon. Member is very right that under that Vidhyapeeth, we are also encouraging the *Guru-Shishya parampara*. We have identified some very renowned Ayurveda acharyas in our country and we have requested those Ayurveda acharyas to take some students with them and those students should live with them for two years and learn under them. So, we are trying to develop that system also. We have identified seven or eight such eminent Ayurveda acharyas in our country. There are a lot of requests from the students to take that education under them. So, we are selecting and sending them for a two-year course to be done under them.

DR. KRUPASINDHU BHOI: Sir, I must congratulate the Prime Minister to create a separate department of Indian System of Medicine. But according to this document published by the Government of India, namely, The Country Profile of India- WHO Regional Seminar on Traditional Medicine Programme-77 Colombo, the number of Ayurvedic Colleges in 1976-77 was 108 and now it is 111. The plan allocation in 1976-77 was Rs.25.6 crore and in the year 1994-95, it is Rs.1.40 crore only. In the Non-Plan sector, it is Rs. 37 lakhs. That too, the Plan money has been diverted otherwise. Then, what is the aim of the Government when they say that this year the Plan allocation will be more?

Secondly, I want to know whether the Governing Body of the Central Council for Research in Ayurveda have approved four new schemes in 1984 or not. It is there in the question and the Minister has replied evasively. The new schemes are:-

1. Rasashastra (Metallic and Mineral Preparation).
2. Scheme of documentation of Ayurvedic literature and classics.
3. Under the caption of International Cell within Indian System of Medicine possibility of developing Herbal Injection as a new scheme, as China has done in their country on a large scale to deal with emergencies.

Respected Madam was saying that there is no such system in our country or in the globe.

MR. SPEAKER: Please do not make it a speech.

DR. KRUPASINDHU BHOI: I am not making a speech. I am trying to get the information from the hon. Minister.

MR. SPEAKER: Please realise that we have spent half-an-hour on one question.

DR. KRUPASINDHU BHOI: I am not diverting my attention anywhere else. I am asking a specific question pertaining to the question raised by the original Member. I want to know why all the four schemes have not been approved since 1984 and why the Plan allocation has been sliced down to such an extent and again, we are debating the same point.

SHRI PABAN SINGH GHATOWAR: Sir, it is not true that the Plan allocation has decreased. With the creation of a new department, honourable Prime Minister has given more funds. It was Rs.88 crore in the Eighth Five Year Plan and

now he has increased it to Rs. 108 crore and I think there will be no constraint of funds for the development of Indian System of Medicine in our country.

[Translation]

SHRI BRISHIN PATEL: MR. Speaker, Sir, many incurable diseases can be cured by Ayurvedic System of Medicine. The Government is also serious to encourage this system. But when the question of appointing doctors of Allopathy and Ayurveda in the same Department arises the salary of Allopathic doctor is fixed at Rupees four thousand and the Ayurvedic doctor, Rupees two thousand only. I would like to know from the Government as to whether it will make efforts to remove this anomaly so as to encourage Ayurvedic System of Medicine?

[English]

SHRI PABAN SINGH GHATOWAR: Sir, definitely the Government would look into this aspect.

National Drinking Water Authority

*143. SHRI RABI RAY:
SHRI M.V.V.S MURTHY:

Will the Minister of RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have decided to set up a National Drinking Water Authority;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the likely composition, powers and functioning of the Authority;

(d) whether the Government propose to cover entire waterless areas in the country under various schemes; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT (DR. JAGANNATH MISHRA) (a) to (c). the proposal to set up a National Drinking Water Authority for rural areas in the country is under consideration.

(d) It is proposed to supply safe drinking water to every habitation in the country.

(e) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT

According to the information available, there were 1,17,429 habitations as on 01.04.1995 which were not covered with a public source of safe water supply. In the current year, the target is to cover 55,996 of these habitations and the remaining 61,433 are proposed to be covered by 15th August, 1997.

[Translation]

SHRI RABI RAY: Mr. Speaker, Sir, even today, crores of people are deprived of drinking water facility in our country. I would like to know from the hon. Minister as to what norms have been fixed by the Government in regard to drinking water and what is the per-capita use of water as per the norms fixed and further, how many people are still deprived of drinking water facility?

DR. JAGANNATH MISHRA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, as the hon. Member has asked, there are 13 lakh habitations in our country, out of them, in eight lakh habitations full arrangements have been made to provide drinking water. However, there are four lakh such villages where per-capita supply of water is less than forty litres. This is one problem. But another problem is of quality also in 1,40,000 habitations where arrangements for supply of drinking water have been made the hon. Prime Minister drew our attention towards this and he reviewed the functioning of whole department on 4th July and directed that wherever there is quality problem that should be solved immediately. This problem mainly exist in Rajasthan, Gujarat and Andhra Pradesh and it is with regard to fluoride. Therefore, department is making all the efforts to remove defects in water there and to improve the quality of drinking water. Government is trying to provide safe drinking water in 1,40,000 habitations. It has been said by this Department in the meeting with the Prime Minister that the State Government are not utilising central allocation honestly. Therefore, an Authority may be set up under the Chairmanship of the Prime Minister. All the programmes should be reviewed from time to time by that Authority. Chief Ministers should be made members of that Authority. Since it is the responsibility of State Governments, they should be hold responsible for shortcomings. But we are trying to remove those shortcomings in the programmes.

SHRI RABI RAY: My question was in regard to norms prescribed for quality of water.

DR. JAGANNATH MISHRA: We get the water tested from time to time and ascertain whether fluoride and arsenic are there in water. If these two contents are not in the water