

acknowledges the fact that the population is the greatest problem of this country. We have not been able to solve the problem of population due to minoritism and our appeasing policy. Keeping all these aside, I am going to ask three questions in three sentences. Whether the Government propose to enact strict laws to contain population on the pattern of China? Secondly the assurance for providing land was given not only in Uttar Pradesh as Rajendra ji, has said but it was given in Madhya Pradesh also. Thirdly, at many places wives of those who had already undergone vasectomy operation, had babies and they had to face a very embarrassing situation. Is the hon. Minister aware of lakhs of such cases in Madhya Pradesh?

**SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH :** Mr. Speaker, Sir, last week, I had tabled before you the draft statement of population policy of India. I would welcome as many suggestions from hon. Members as they wish to extend in this regard. You rightly said that unanimous approach for the entire country is very necessary.

**KUMARI UMA BHARATI :** Please, go through the laws of China.

**SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH :** I am talking about China only but we are opposed to use force or coercive laws. Our effort under our family planning programme is to involve our society, our village Panchayats, non-Governmental organisations and political parties so that it may take a form of national movement. The Government of China is also changing its programme to certain extent. They are also not giving thrust on force in implementation of these programmes and we also do not consider force to be a good measure. Some experts are of the opinion that when we put much thrust on coercive measures, then rate of male sterilisation reduced. Therefore, we want that this programme should be implemented by educating people, by providing them all sorts of information through media and communication and in coordination with Panchayat institutions and people.

**KUMARI UMA BHARATI :** Two very important points have been left in this speech. Promises were also made in Madhya Pradesh to provide land and vasectomy operation failed there in a large number due to which women had to face embarrassing situation in their society, family and in Mohallas. Have such cases been reported to you? If not, I shall bring such cases to your notice. What will be your course of action in such cases, this is what I had asked you.

**SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH :** As regards the issue of land, I have not heard anything in this regard so far and...*(Interruptions)*

**SHRI RAJENDRA AGNIHOTRI :** You are also from Uttar Pradesh. You are not an outsider and you have got all the information. So please tell us.

**SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH :** My Department maintains that it has no such information about the

promise of land having been made, even then we will enquire from Madhya Pradesh Government.

*[English]*

I will only check that.

*[Translation]*

**KUMARI UMA BHARATI :** Please tell us about the operations that have turned out to be unsuccessful...*(Interruptions)*

*[English]*

**MR. SPEAKER :** You can check up and inform the hon. Members.

*[English]*

### Diagnostic Tests

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\*242. **SHRI HANNAN MOLLAH :**  
**SHRI UDDHAB BARMAN :**

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

(a) whether Safdarjung and other hospitals under control of the Government have been referring patients elsewhere to get sophisticated tests conducted for diagnosis of the diseases;

(b) whether diagnostic tests are not being conducted by Department of Laboratory Medicine of Safdarjung and other Government hospitals;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether testing kits for a large number of diagnostic examinations costing thousands of rupees are being ordered by these hospitals; and

(e) if so, the details thereof including the probable utilisation of those testing kits in those hospitals?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH) : (a) to (e). A statement is laid on the table of the Sabha.

### STATEMENT

(a) A majority of the diagnostic tests are done in Government hospitals. However, in respect of certain sophisticated tests such as MRI, Rapid diagnosis of meningitis, hepatitis, torch complex, thyroid scanning etc. for which facilities are not available in the Government hospitals, patients are referred to other hospitals/institutions to get the tests done.

(b) Department of Laboratory Medicine of Safdarjung Hospital is conducting tests. On an average about

35,000 tests are done per month. Similarly, other hospitals are also conducting a wide variety of diagnostic tests.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) and (e). Diagnostic kits are being procured for quick tests based on ELISA technique viz. for detection of AIDS, autoanalyser for quick laboratory diagnosis of various serious ailments, blood-gas analyser etc. The utilisation is monitored and is generally in keeping with the requirements proposed by the individual departments.

SHRI HANNAN MOLLAH : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the statement is just a usual denial by the Government of the existing irregularities and the difficulties faced by the people. There are wide reports in the newspapers to this effect. Whenever you go to the hospital with your patient, you will also have the same experience. You know that earlier, the clinical test was less. Earlier, doctors used to treat the patients by their own experience. But now every doctor, for everything, asks for the report of a diagnostic test. The cost of the test is increasing leaps and bounds. It is going beyond the capacity of the common people every time. Further, the private organisations are spreaded around the hospitals everywhere and they are taking advantage of the situation. They even exploit the people to a great extent. It is further reported that in the hospitals of the capital city of Delhi, even equipment worth lakhs of rupees is not used for conducting the test. But the doctors ask the patient to go and have the tests done outside. Maybe, they get some commission from those private institutions. So, I would like to know whether the Government is aware of such facts and if so what action the Government has taken in such cases.

SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH : Mr. Speaker, Sir, a very large number of tests in the Government of India's hospitals are done free. In fact, in the Safdarjung Hospital, in the last year, 18.9 lakh tests were done. In the Lab Medicine and Biochemistry Departments, 8.36 lakh tests were done. However, the hon. Member is right that in a certain number of tests like ECG or Cat Scan, a modest fee is charged. It is Rs. 100 for most of the tests. But for a Cat Scan, it is Rs. 500 for the test. But even there, the Medical Superintendent of the Hospital has the power to waive it in deserving cases.

I would share the Members' concern that very poor people do go there to get certain tests done. So, the Medical Superintendent should in such cases, waive it. A sick person should not be allowed to go out of a Government Hospital simply because he or she does not have money. If there are any specific charges of doctors engaging in irregularities, if the hon. Member gives the details to me, I will certainly get them looked into because it will be very wrong for a doctor to advise the patient like that. It is against the medical ethics to refer a person to some other laboratory if he makes money. If there are any specific cases, I would request

the Member to bring them to our attention. I would like that to be examined.

SHRI HANNAN MOLLAH : In the *Statesman*, there is a Report that the Reporter had done some inquiries in the Safdarjung Hospital. The point is that they purchase kits for the diagnosis of certain diseases. I would like to know whether it is a fact that kits for 35 tests - such as detection of Carcinoma and makers of malignancy like Alfa Feto Protein, CA 15-3, CA 15-9 and CA 125 are procured and in spite of that whether those tests are not conducted in the hospitals.

In the report those tests are mentioned. I would like to know whether the Government is aware of it or whether the Government will enquire into such things and bring guilty people to book.

SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH : Since this is a specific charge, I will get it examined.

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE : You please examine the matter as this matter is related to Shri Rubindra Bandopadhyay.

MR. SPEAKER : Mamataji, I have not given you permission.

SHRI UDDHAB BARMAN : In the reply the Minister has said that facilities for sophisticated tests such as MRI, Rapid Diagnosis of Meningitis, hepatitis, thyroid scanning etc., are not available even in premier hospitals such as Safdarjung and other Government hospitals. It is seen that the costs of medical care and tests are increasing. I would like to know whether the Minister would arrange for such tests in the hospitals and for that whether the Government is going to take necessary steps in this regard. Even in Delhi, such facilities are lacking in premier hospitals like Safdarjung Hospital. I come from North-East and medical facilities are practically limited there even in Government hospitals. In view of all this, I would like to know whether the Government will arrange for an easy test facility in the hospitals and whether necessary equipment will be supplied to all Government hospitals so that common people get better access to medical facilities.

SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH : It is because of reasons of this kind that some modest fees have been charged for some special tests. As I said, there are provisions available with the Medical Superintendent to waive this fee in modest cases. However, we will certainly, in the Ninth Plan, propose to the Planning Commission that the testing facilities in the hospitals are suitably strengthened. In fact, this is being worked upon.

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL : May I know from the hon. Minister whether the Government have taken a decision to allow people, covered under the CGHS, to have access to the treatment facilities in the private hospitals in the four metropolitan cities in India? If so, what are the reasons for such a decision?

SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH : I do know that in view of the limited facilities in Government hospitals or in identified hospitals outside the Government sector, the CGHS card holders are given the facility for taking specified treatment which are reimbursed according to well-established rates.

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL : My question was different. It was : Has it been decided by the Government that the CGHS card holders will be entitled to private treatment facilities in the four metropolitan cities? That was a decision.

[Translation]

PROF. OM PAL SINGH 'NIDAR' : Mr. Speaker, Sir, Hon'ble Minister has told us about the facilities available in metropolitan cities but 80 percent people reside in villages, hence I would like to ask the Minister whether any centre has been set up for conducting tests for them. Secondly, the Minister has expressed his views about Delhi hospitals but in Uttar Pradesh, not a single hospital is free from irregularities which are on the rise everywhere. The Doctors have not visited the Dispensaries for three years. I would like to know from the Hon'ble Minister whether he will look into it and punish the guilty.

SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH : Mr. Speaker, Sir, apart from Delhi, in Pune, Hyderabad and Calcutta.

[English]

and as I mentioned about the metropolitan cities, some of the private hospitals have been recognised under CGHS.

[Translation]

As per the set up available in the rural areas, the cases for testing all referred to District level referral hospitals. There are no facilities for advanced testing in Primary Health centres or at village level.

PROF. OM PAL SINGH 'NIDAR' : The Doctors never visit the District hospitals. At times, there is no power and sometimes the equipment is out of order. I would like to know about the provisions made in this regard.

SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH : Mr. Speaker, Sir, we try to monitor it and send information to the State Governments in this regard. Particularly in the case of Centrally Sponsored schemes, whenever we come to know about the non-availability of doctors or medicines in hospitals, we try to solve the problem. A scheme for providing State level health system and for increasing facilities in hospitals is there which at present is being implemented in Andhra Pradesh, Bengal, Punjab and Karnataka.

[English]

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE : Sir, I am very grateful that you have allowed me this question.

You will appreciate that there are Central Government hospitals in Delhi, Punjab and other State of the country but in the North-Eastern and Eastern Regions, there is no Central Government hospital. There is no facility available for diagnostic tests. In the State Government hospitals there, even Gelusil is not available for the poor people.

For treatment, they have to come from Assam, Meghalaya, Arunachal Pradesh, Mizoram, Tripura via Calcutta to Chennai or Delhi. So, it is very much expensive for the patients from these Seven-Sister States especially for kidney transplantation and surgery.

Therefore, may I request the hon. Minister to look into this matter and set up immediately Central Government hospitals along with all the infrastructures in the North-Eastern and Eastern regions where the facility of the Central Government hospital is not available?

SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH : Sir, as the hon. Member knows, both in the North-East and the East, we have some very old and some very good hospitals, for example, at Jorhat, and Dibrugarh which have long traditions from decades. But if there is any review that is required of these facilities...

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE : Of course, it is required. Nothing is available there. No equipment is available there.

SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH : As the hon. Member knows that at Shillong an Institute of Post Graduate Studies and Research is being set up by the Central Government.

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE : It is only one but there are Seven Sister States.

[Translation]

### Leprosy Eradication Centre

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\*243. SHRI SHIVRAJ SINGH :  
SHRI N.J. RATHWA :

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

(a) the details of leprosy eradication Centres functioning in various States, particularly in the Adivasi, Tribal, Rural and Backward areas in Gujarat till date;

(b) the number of such centres opened during the year 1995-96;

(c) the amount of assistance provided to these centres by the Union Government during the aforesaid period Statewise and yearwise, separately;

(d) the number of leprosy patients benefited during the above period; and

(e) the details of achievements made in this regard so far particularly in Gujarat?