

(iv) More letter boxes are being installed in villages without Post Office/letter boxes.

Providing Yoga-Therapy in Hospitals of Country

642. SHRI R. K. AMIN: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state,

(a) whether the Yoga Therapy has been provided for the first time in CGHS hospital in Delhi;

(b) if so, how many centres are there for Yoga Therapy in Delhi; and

(c) whether Government have formulated any scheme for providing Yoga Therapy in various hospitals all over the country?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI RAJ NARAIN): (a) to (c). Yoga Therapy has been provided by CGHS not in hospitals but at a CGHS dispensary. A regular Yoga Centre has been established at CGHS Dispensary, Chitragupta Road to impart training to CGHS Beneficiaries in Yoga Therapy. The Central Government have not so far formulated any scheme for providing Yoga Therapy in various hospitals all over the country. Moreover, Health being a State subject, it is for the State/Union Territory Governments to look into the necessity of formulating/establishing Yoga Centre in hospitals located within their territories. However, as part of Rural Health Scheme it is proposed to impart training in Yoga through Community Health workers.

Bhutan King's Visit to India

643. SHRIMATI MRINAL GORE:
DR. BAPU KALDATE:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the King of Bhutan had recently visited India; and

(b) if so, the salient points of the talks held with him?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE): (a) Yes, Sir. The King of Bhutan paid an informal visit to India between April 23 to 25, 1977.

(b) The opportunity was taken to re-affirm the very friendly, warm and special relations between India and the Kingdom of Bhutan.

Malnutrition Problem

644. SHRI K. KOLANATHAIVELU: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the problem of malnutrition in India is grave, being the major cause of maternal and infant mortality, morbidity and blindness;

(b) whether our Research Institutes have succeeded in evolving an inexpensive but nutritious diet which can be within the reach of the weaker sections;

(c) if so, the extent to which the community have been entrusted to take up such diet; and

(d) the steps proposed for combating the grave problem of malnutrition?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI RAJ NARAIN): (a) Considering the estimated deaths of 0.5 million children as a result of severe malnutrition and the deaths which occur to a great extent due to malnutrition from diseases like gastro-enteritis, measles, whooping cough T.B. etc., incidence of blindness amongst children under 5 years of age of nearly 7 per cent of our child population and the prevalence rate of 50 per cent of anaemia in pregnant women, the problem of malnutrition can be said to be considerable, if not grave.

(b) Yes, but a good percentage of poor people cannot adopt this diet due to their limited purchasing capacity.

(c) The new nutritional diet standards are being propagated in the community through extension divisions of various Ministries and various nutrition programmes. The people are free to adopt these standards if they can so afford. Due to poor financial condition and resistance to change dietary habits, the improvement in the dietary habits is not yet significant.

(d) The Government of India have launched many Schemes to combat the problem of malnutrition. Brief details of these schemes are indicated in the enclosed statement.

Statement

SCHEMES LAUNCHED BY THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA TO COMBAT THE PROBLEM OF MALNUTRITION

1. Applied Nutrition programme

This programme is being implemented by the Community Development Department with assistance from UNICEF, WHO FPO. The objective of the programme is to meet the nutritional needs of vulnerable segments namely, women and pre-school children through increased production and consumption of protective foods like green vegetables, community gardens, poultry units and development of fisheries are the main components of production. In the 4th plan about 1180 C. D. blocks were covered under the programme. In the Fifth Five Year Plan an additional 700 blocks are expected to be covered.

2. Special Nutrition programme

The programme is implemented by the Department of Social Welfare as a central programme. The World Food Programme and CARE assist the programme with food aid. The beneficiaries include pre-school children and pregnant and lactating mothers. During the 5th Five Year Plan 6 million children are expected to be covered.

3. Mid Day Meals Programme

The programme is being implemented by the Ministry of Education and Social Welfare to meet the nutritional needs of primary school children. During the 5th Five Year Plan 5 millions children are expected to be covered.

4. Prophylaxis against Blindness in Children caused by Vitamin A deficiency

The programme is being implemented by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (Department of Family Welfare). It covers the vulnerable segments of pre-school children 1—6 years of age. A massive dose of 200,000 I. U. is given orally to children once in every six months. In the 5th Five Year Plan it is expected to cover 60 million children.

5. Programme for Prophylaxis against Nutritional Anaemia

The programme is being implemented by the Department of Family Welfare for the benefit of pregnant and lactating mothers and children. Iron and folic acid tablets are distributed through health agencies. In the Fifth Five Year Plan it is expected to cover 500 lakhs beneficiaries.

Dissolution of Advisory Councils

645. SHRI K. MALLANNA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether his Ministry had dissolved its Advisory Councils; and

(b) if so, the number of members who were serving in these bodies along with their duties?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) No, Sir. There is only one Central P & T Advisory Council in the Ministry of Communications. The term of the last Central P & T Advisory Council expired on 15-2-1977. All members of that Council have been informed that they have ceased