

their Directors' industries and other depositors ; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER AND MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI MORARJI DESAI): (a) and (b). A statement giving the required information as at the end of 1966 and 1967 is laid on the table of the House. [Placed in Library. See No. LT-740-69] Information for the year 1968 is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House. Grant of loans and advances to directors and the concerns in which they are interested, has been prohibited under Section 20 of the Banking Regulation Act, 1949, as recently amended, with effect from 1st February, 1969.

(c) and (d). There is no discrimination as such between the Directors and non-Director borrowers. However, the rate of interest charged by the banks on their advances usually depends on consideration like the security available against the loan, the purpose for which the loan is granted, the credit-worthiness of the party and his antecedents etc.

Paralysis

6209. SHRI P. M. SAYEED:
SHRI MANIBHAI J. PATEL :

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY PLANNING AND WORKS, HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the article published in the *Times of India* of the 30th December, 1968, under the caption 'Two-million victims of Paralysis' ;

(b) whether Government have collected information from their own source to verify the facts regarding the reported 2 million victims of paralysis in the States of Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Orissa and

West Bengal ; and if so, the findings of Government ;

(c) the reasons attributed to this type of paralysis known as 'Lathyrism' ; and

(d) the remedies suggested by Government to check the disease ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY PLANNING AND WORKS, HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI B. S. MURTHY): (a) Yes.

(b) The number of cases in Madhya Pradesh is about 25,000. Information regarding the number of those suffering from lathyrism in the States of Bihar, Orissa and West Bengal is being collected and will be placed on the table of the Lok Sabha in due course.

(c) Lathyrism, a spastic type of paralysis involving the lower limbs is caused by the consumption over a long period of a large amount of khesari dal (*Lathyrus sativus*) either as dal, but mostly as roasted powdered dal converted into 'roti'. It has been established that if 40% of the total calories is derived from khesari dal for a long period, paralysis may result. The toxic principle causing this paralysis is present in the seeds and is a neuro-toxic principle. This principle has been chemically identified both by the Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore, and the Nutrition Research Laboratories, Hyderabad as B oxalyl amino alanine.

(d) The preventive measures consist of educating the people about the danger of consumption of khesari dal. Intensive health education is being carried out in those States where such condition is prevalent.

Recently the Nutrition Research Laboratories, Hyderabad, has carried out pilot experiments demonstrating that a simple method of soaking the seeds for a long time in water and boiling it for a few hours and then discarding the water will remove the neuro-toxic principle. The soaked seeds can then be dried and either roasted and powdered or used as dal in the ordinary way. A