

Title: Suffering caused to the people due to shortage of Anti Rabies Vaccines.

DR. RAM CHANDRA DOME (BIRBHUM): Sir, here, I would like to raise a matter of urgent public importance. Throughout the country, a large number of people are suffering from dearth of ARVs, *i.e.*, Anti-Rabies Vaccines. Supply of these vaccines through the public health care delivery system is in dearth. We do not know the facts. But there are a large number of victims of rabies or dog bites in the country. Due to non-availability of these vaccines, they have to depend on the commercial institutions. From the market, these vaccines are being purchased at a high rate. So, the people are getting distressed.

Therefore, it is my humble submission to the Union Government to come out with a definite proposal, to mitigate the sufferings of the people, by supplying adequate ARVs throughout the country at a lower price or subsidized price. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Santasri Chatterjee, you may also associate with Dr. Dome.

SHRI SANTASRI CHATTERJEE (SERAMPORE): Sir, I do associate with the hon. Member. But I have also a submission to make. In this regard, the Indian Council of Medical Research has been experimenting an alternative medicine, but it will take time, at least, up to March, 2005. In the meantime, if the 31st December deadline is over, what would be the fate of thousand and thousand of people who are the victims of dog bites and other bites?

Therefore, I would request the hon. Health Minister to kindly look into this matter and talk to the State Governments for immediate relief to the people.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Minister of Parliamentary Affairs, I think, this is a serious matter, and it should be brought to the notice of the hon. Health Minister. It is about the supply of anti-rabies vaccines.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI BJOY HANDIQUE): Sir, I would bring it to the notice of the hon. Health Minister....(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Santasri Chatterjee, I have interceded on your behalf.