

[Kumari Saroj Khaparde]

on demand by the National Institute of Communicable diseases and we find that there is no shortage of drug anywhere.

As advised by the Planning Commission, a separate programme for the control of Kala-azar will be prepared in the 8th Plan. However, in 1988-89 a cash assistance amounting to Rs. 1.5 crores has already been released to the Government of Bihar and West Bengal. Besides this, insecticidal spray has also been supplied. A matching contribution has been provided to other State Governments.

Sir, I thought the Hon. Member will ask about different districts. I can assure the House that at no cost Government can afford to ignore the Kala-azar disease in West Bengal or in Bihar or for that matter in any part of the country. As and when demand comes from any State Government, we send our teams there with the necessary medicines and the necessary help.

Sir, with these words I thank the Hon. Member for raising this point and if there is anything more he wants to know, I would be glad to reply.

DR. G.S. RAJHANS: Madam, I would like to know why there is a discrepancy in the death figures given in this statement and the previous statement.

Secondly, I would like to request you to do something to educate the people about this dreaded disease and how it can be cured. People, particularly in North Bihar, are not quite educated.

KUMARI SAROJ KHAPARDE: Sir, we have already got a programme for educating people in this regard.

As regards the figures, I would like to mention that we always quote the figures which we got from the State Government and I don't think that the information supplied by the State Government is not correct. If the

Hon. Member has any doubt about the figures, I will ask my Ministry to send some team to find out the facts and definitely the Ministry will look into the whole affair of Kala-azar in the State of Bihar.

12.35 hrs.

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[Translation]

(i) Demand for Development of Chitrakoot as a tourist resort

SHRI BHISHMA DEO DUBE (Banda): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, Chitrakoot is one of the most pious pilgrim centres and historical places which is visited by lakhs of pilgrims every year. It attracts people because of natural beauty and religious and historical significance. The place has not been developed at all keeping in view the number of pilgrims and tourists that visit.

Tourism is a major source of earning foreign exchange. If Chitrakoot is properly developed, the number of pilgrims and tourists may increase considerably. If the flights to Khajuraho are diverted via Chitrakoot and this place is air linked to Prayagraj and Ayodhya, it would be of great convenience to the tourists and the number of tourists to Chitrakoot would positively increase thereby.

Government should therefore construct an airport at Chitrakoot and provide help to develop it as a major tourist resort.

[English]

(ii) Demand for an electronic telephone exchange at Jammu

SHRI JANAK RAJ GUPTA (Jammu): Due to the defective telephone exchange in Jammu, the people of that area are facing great inconvenience and difficulties. The telephone exchange installed at Gandhi