

SHRI P.R. KUMARAMANGALAM : I am nobody to promise. I said, their demand is just. I said, there is justness behind it.

The need of the moment is, on the one side there are problems which are communal in nature, be paid attention to and solution found to ensure that immediately elections can be held. I am in agreement with my friends on this that elections must be held as soon as possible. While on the other side, I request the hon. Home Minister let the poor of Tamil Nadu, those who have huts and are on occupation of Government land be given *pattas*. At best, it would be 10 lakh or 20 lakh *pattas*. It would not cost a naya paisa to the Government to give them *pattas*. Let them at least release those *pattas* to the poor of Tamil Nadu so that they would put up a good dwelling unit.

With this, I would only like to end by saying that I wholeheartedly support the resolution moved by the hon. Home Minister and I commend the work that is being done by the Governor of Tamil Nadu.

SHRI P. KOLANDAIVELU (Gobichetipalayam) : Sir, I rise to oppose the resolution which has been brought forward by the Home Minister today. We do recognise the incidents that had taken place on January 28th of this year. We appreciated the Government...

MR. CHAIRMAN : Mr. Kolandaivelu, just a minute. You can continue after the Minister's statement. Now, there is a statement by the Minister, Shri Motilal Vora.

15.59 hrs.

STATEMENT RE : INCIDENCE OF GASTRO-ENTERITIS/CHOLERA IN THE UNION TERRITORY OF DELHI

[English]

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI MOTILAL VORA) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I rise with great anguish and concern to make a statement...

SHRI SATYAGOPAL MISRA (Tamluk) : Mere statement will not do. You

should resign. (Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : No interruptions please.

16.00 hrs.

SHRI MOTILAL VORA : I rise with great anguish and concern to make a Statement in this August House on the outbreak of Gastro-enteritis and Cholera in the Union Territory of Delhi. Our concern for the outbreak of these diseases is evidenced by the fact that Hon'ble Prime Minister himself has visited the worst affected areas on 22nd July, 1988. I have myself visited most of these areas, as well as all the hospitals primarily concerned with the treatment of these diseases on 3 days. Besides, a few other Ministers have also visited these areas. Our desire has been to control this outbreak at the earliest and to avoid unnecessary sufferings to the victims of these dreaded diseases. The Government is giving top-most priority on the monitoring of these programmes and Lt. Governor of Delhi is personally coordinating operations.

The worst affected areas are the resettlement colonies of Nand Nagri, Sunder Nagri, Kalyanpuri, Khichripur, Seemapuri, Gokalpuri and Seelampur. All these colonies are located in trans-Yamuna area. Besides, these, Khanpur and Govindpuri in South Delhi have also been affected. The number of cases of Cholera and Gastro-enteritis reported by the various hospitals as on 26-7-1988 was 12,529 out of which cholera positive cases were 427. The total number of deaths due to Gastro-enteritis and Cholera in these hospitals were 155.

The focal out-break of Gastro-enteritis was mainly due to contamination of water as the residents in the affected areas have been getting their requirement of water from hand pumps which had got submerged under rain water and contaminated with accumulated garbage and fecal matter.

A time-bound programme for prevention and control of this outbreak has been made. The preventive public health measures undertaken by the concerned authorities include :

—Expedition removal of garbage from all the affected areas ;

[Shri Motilal Vora]

- cleaning of choked drains ;
- ensuring availability of adequate potable water in all the affected areas including through tankers ;
- sending mobile teams of doctors and para-medical staff to identify and treat the affected persons ;
- mass inoculation against cholera and typhoid in the affected areas and inoculation of all school children ;
- distribution of ORS Packets ;
- distribution of Halogen tablets to render water safe for drinking ;
- speedy implementation of Environmental Improvement schemes like Construction of Sanitary Latrines etc. ;
- health education through 77 mobile teams ;
- monitoring of medical care facilities by senior doctors from the Directorate General of Health Services, Government of India ;
- Involvement of Voluntary Organisations in Health Education and treatment of actual cases.

The deaths among the hospitalised cases were mostly those of affected persons who were brought to the hospital for treatment at the late stages.

All the hospitals in Delhi under the Delhi Administration, Government of India and the Municipal Corporation of Delhi have adequate medical and para-medical staff and supply of medicines like intravenous fluids, antibiotics, etc. to treat the cases reporting to the hospitals.

The Government of India is continuously monitoring the implementation of the preventive and curative measures being taken by all the concerned authorities and has

ensured adequate supply of men, material and vaccines at all points of time. A massive Immunization Programme for prevention of Cholera has been launched with a target of 9 lakh persons in the worst affected areas to be inoculated. So far, in this month, over 5 lakh persons have been inoculated. Typhoid inoculations have also been started. Expectant mothers are vulnerable to the complications of Hepatitis in this situation. Accordingly, Gammaglobulin injections have been made available for their protection. The inoculation programme is supplemented with the distribution of Oral Rehydration Salt packets meant specially for children.

Action has been initiated for reinforcing measures against sale of unhygienic food by hawkers and vendors. Adequate publicity on health education measures against gastroenteritis and cholera is being given through Television, Radio, Newspapers and distribution of pamphlets and personal contact.

I can assure Members that as a result of the steps taken by the Government, the situation will soon improve and eventually become normal. I seek your cooperation and support.

(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Mr. Kolandaivelu, please continue.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI HARISH RAWAT (Almora) : The hon. Minister should also clarify as to what action has been taken against those officers of the Delhi Administration for whose negligence this epidemic assumed serious proportions. This is a serious matter...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : You may ask for a discussion, if you want.

(Interruptions)

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA (Bankura) : We want to know what action he has taken against those officers who are responsible

for this ? (Interruptions)

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (S. BUTA SINGH) : I am sure, the hon. Member realises the seriousness of the situation. (Interruptions)

SHRI SATYAGOPAL MISRA (Tamiluk) : I do realise it.

S. BUTA SINGH : That is why, kindly be serious about this. Many people have died. Therefore, do not take it lightly. (Interruptions) Sir, I want to reply to the queries made by Shri Harishji and Achariaji. The Government of India has already got a report by the Secretary, Ministry of Urban Development and the report has come to us. It has highlighted various lapses on the part of the various agencies.

The hon. Prime Minister has already announced that action will be taken in the light of the lapses indicated by the report of the Secretary, Ministry of Urban Development.

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA (Basirhat) : How many children have died ? (Interruptions)

S. BUTA SINGH : I am sure, I will come before this House with the action against those erring agencies and officials who have been found lacking in this kind of an exercise. Therefore, the House can be assured that the Government is determined to take action against those officials who have not been able to attend to this kind of a situation which has resulted in the death of 155 people.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Mr. Kolandaivelu, please continue your speech.

(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Now, no questions please.

(Interruptions)

16.07½ hrs.

STATUTORY RESOLUTION RE : APPROVAL OF THE CONTINUANCE IN FORCE OF THE PROCLAMATION BY THE PRESIDENT IN RESPECT OF THE STATE OF TAMIL NADU—Contd.

[English]

SHRI P. KOLANDAIVELU (Gobichettipalayam) : Sir, I rise to oppose the Resolution brought in by the Home Minister here. With regard to Article 356, actually we do recognise that the incident happened on January 28, of this year. In order to save democracy, the Union Government came to the help of the people of Tamil Nadu and imposed President's Rule.

Taking advantage of this, the Government of India cannot extend the President's Rule for ever.

16.08 hrs.

[SHRI SOMNATH RATH in the Chair]

Sir, even when the discussion was taking place here with regard to imposition of the President's Rule, even the Home Minister hon. Shri Buta Singhji made an assurance to the Members of Parliament here that elections would be held as early as possible, i.e. within two months. Two months have lapsed. Within two days, six months period is going to lapse. But there are no signs as to when the elections would be conducted. We are here to have early elections. But the Government of India is thinking in terms of postponing the elections for ever. My humble submission is that extending President's Rule is an undemocratic one. Even, I will go to the extent of saying that the Government of India must come forward in order to take away the Article 356 from the Constitution itself. It should not be a child-play and it should not be done according to the whims and fancies of the Government of India. Imposing President's Rule in each and every State is highly undemocratic and you may be autocratic but not democratic. At the same time, let me tell you whether the imposition of President's rule has settled so many issues which are arising out every day in the State. Actually,