

getting the facts. What can we do in the absence of facts ?

11.01 hrs.

CONDOLENCES ON LOSS OF LIFE
ON ACCOUNT OF EARTHQUAKE
IN NORTH BIHAR AND OTHER
PARTS OF THE COUNTRY

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : The House has learnt with deep shock and distress of the tragic and large-scale loss of life and property in the wake of the earthquake that devastated vast areas of North Bihar and some other parts of the country yesterday. The calamity has extended to our neighbouring countries Nepal and Bangladesh also. The House conveys its deep condolences to the members of the bereaved families and prays for the speedy recovery of those who have suffered injuries.

The House may now stand in silence for a short while in memory of the deceased.

*The Members then stood in silence
for a short while.*

MR. SPEAKER : As soon as they come back and we get some facts, we will try to do something.

11.05 hrs.

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[Translation]

Shortage of Medicines in Dr. Ram
Manohar Lohia Hospital

*345. SHRI RAJ KUMAR RAI : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the patients in Dr. Ram Manohar Lohia Hospital are compelled to buy even ordinary medicines from the market;

(b) if so, whether it is due to shortage of medicines with Government; and

(c) if so, the reasons therefor and the steps being taken by Government to provide these medicines ?

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE
MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY
WELFARE (KUMARI SAROJ
KHAPARDE) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c). Do not arise.

[Translation]

SHRI RAJ KUMAR RAI : * Mr. Speaker, Sir, the question of hospitals involves humanitarian aspect. By virtue of our position as a Member of Parliament, we owe some responsibilities and we cannot escape from them. When a matter of public importance like this comes to our notice, we are bound by our duty to bring it to the notice of the House and the Government and expect that the Government will view it in a proper perspective and state the facts to the House. It is surprising that when Ministers like hon. Shri Vora, the Minister of State like Kumari Saroj Khaparde, and Medical Superintendents Like Shri Bihari, etc., who are all responsible persons, are there it is being stated that there is absolutely no shortage of essential medicines in that hospital. We have ourselves seen that even several ordinary medicines are in short supply and on accounts of which I had to raise this matter in the House. Without getting involved in questions and answers, I simply wanted that the hon. Minister should have adopted a more constructive approach and looked into the aspect as to why there was shortage of medicines. If this entire matter was investigated, it would have been better. The way in which reply has been given is not going to solve the problem. If a committee is constituted consisting of either the hon. Members of Parliament or high officials for conducting an enquiry into this matter, it would be welcome. It is my personal experience that ordinary medicines are in short supply in many hospitals. I want to put forward the example of Ram Manohar Lohia Hospital in this regard. Two months