

[Secretary-General]

Procedure and Conduct of Business in the Rajya Sabha, I am directed to enclose a copy of the Essential Commodities (Amendment) Bill, 1976, which has been passed by the Rajya Sabha at its sitting held on the 11th August, 1976 "

12.11 hrs.

BILLS AS PASSED BY RAJYA SABHA

SECRETARY-GENERAL: Sir, I lay on the Table of the House the following Bills, as passed by Rajya Sabha:—

(1) The Factories (Amendment) Bill, 1976.

(2) The Essential Commodities (Amendment) Bill, 1976

12.02 hrs.

CALLING ATTENTION TO MATTER OF URGENT PUBLIC IMPORTANCE

REPORTED DEATH OF ONE HUNDRED BABIES IN TWO DELHI HOSPITALS BECAUSE OF HOSPITAL INFECTION

SHRI M C DAGA (Pali): I call the attention of the Minister of Health and Family Planning to the following matter of urgent public importance and request that he may make a statement thereon:

"Reported death of one hundred babies in two Delhi hospitals due to indiscriminate use of antibiotics because of hospital infection"

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY PLANNING (DR. KARAN SINGH): Government's attention has been drawn to press reports regarding the alleged deaths of 100 babies in Delhi Hospitals due to hospital infection. Mortality among newborn infants is due to many factors including Diarrhoea Salmonella is commonly found in diarrhoea of infants, but Salmonella-Newport, which is a resistant variety, was detected

for the first time in Kalavati Saran Children's Hospital in September 1975. From then to date a total of 125 cases of this infection amongst infants were detected in three hospitals, out of which 43 have proved fatal. This was not due to indiscriminate use of antibiotics.

All Government hospitals in Delhi have adequate machinery to detect and deal with hospital infections, which can be of various types. However, in view of the importance of the matter, Government have set up a Group of four experts to investigate this new variety of infection as well as other hospital infections, and suggest further remedial measures within a month. A copy of the Resolution containing the terms of reference and composition of the Expert Group is placed on the Table of the House.

New Delhi, the 9th August, 1976

RESOLUTION

Increase in the incidence of hospital cross infection in Delhi hospitals has been reported in the recent past. Government has also learnt that a virulent form of infection, namely Salmonella-Newport, has been detected in the paediatric wards of some of the hospitals and this has also resulted in higher mortality of infants. The problem of hospital cross infection was recently examined in a joint ICMR-WHO Workshop on "Microbiological Investigations on Hospital Cross Infections" held in January, 1976.

To determine the prevalence of infections in Delhi hospitals in general, and of the Salmonella-Newport in particular, the sources of such infection, their spread, the measures taken and those required to control the spread of such infection, the Government have decided to appoint a Group consisting of:—

1. Dr. L. N. Mohapatra, Professor of Microbiology, All India Institute of Medical Sciences.