

**CORRECTIONS OF ANSWER TO
USQ NO. 1451 DATED 7-6-1971
RE : PLASTIC CORNEA
GRAFTING**

THE MINISTER OF WORKS AND HOUSING AND HEALTH AND FAMILY PLANNING (SHRI UMA SHANKAR DIKSHIT) : In answer to Lok Sabha Unstarred Question No. 1451 replied on the 7th June, 1971, it was mentioned in the last portion of the reply that "the patient can now recognise faces". Subsequent enquiries have revealed that this is not correct. One of the patients, Shri Hazari Lal who was operated at Dr. Rajendra Prasad Centre for Ophthalmic Sciences, was blind since childhood. His pre-operative vision was restricted to mere perception of light. Plastic corneal grafting was done on him on the 28th of April and at the end of 5 weeks it found that there were no signs of graft rejection and graft had remained clear. So far as visual improvement is concerned, it was only marginal. He can appreciate hand movements close to the face but this is not considered significant improvement.

The operation was not planned to restore vision. The real objective of the plastic cornea grafting is for the present to ensure the acceptance of the polymer by the human eye and its preservation as a clear medium. At the same time, there may be a marginal benefit in so far as vision is concerned.

It is not the intention to try these polymers on cases for marked degree of restoration of vision for the present. Further trials will be continued with a view to ascertain whether acceptance and clarity rate is statistically significant.

12.02 hrs.

**CALLING ATTENTION TO MATTER
OF URGENT PUBLIC
IMPORTANCE**

**Reported US decision to supply Arms to
Pakistan**

श्री ज्ञानेश्वर प्रसाद यादव (कटिहार) :
अध्यक्ष महोदय, मैं अविश्वसनीय प्रतिक्रमण
के निम्नलिखित विषय की ओर विशेष ध्यान

का ध्यान दिलाता हूँ और प्रार्थना करता हूँ
कि इसके बारे में वे बलात्कृत हैं :

"राष्ट्रपति निक्सन के वैयक्तिक अधिकारों
के अधीन पाकिस्तान को 3.50 करोड़
डालर मूल्य के सस्त्रास्त्र देने का संयुक्त
राज्य अमरीका का कथित निश्चय ।"

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI SWARAN SINGH) : Government have seen the text of the statement made by Senator Church on July 7, 1971, that an estimated \$35 million worth of military equipment is still in the arms pipeline for delivery to Pakistan. On 8th July, 1971, a State Department Spokesman stated that "the average approximate figure over the last five fiscal years has been in the order of \$10 to 15 million a year."

Senator Church is a well informed Senator and has been taking great interest in the question of arms supply by USA to different countries. It is possible that his figure may not be far from correct. In any case, amounts in dollars do not give a clear indication of the nature and quantum of military equipment involved. Equipment purchased from certain governmental sources is valued much below the normal market price. All spare parts which may cost very little can reactivate deadly weapons.

Government shares the concern of all sections of the House about the continued supply of military equipment by USA to Pakistan. I would like to assure the House that our views on the subject have been conveyed in unequivocal terms to the US Government.

Government feel that supply of arms to Pakistan by any country in the present context amounts to condonation of genocide in Bangla Desh and encouragement to the continuation of the atrocities by the military rulers of Pakistan. It also amounts to an intervention on the side of the military rulers of West Pakistan against the people of Bangla Desh. We have left US Government in no doubt about the dangerous implications of such a policy on the situation in Bangla Desh and on the peace and stability of the sub-continent and the region as a whole.