

PLANNING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 5240 on the 21st December, 1967 and state :

(a) whether Government have received complaints against M/s Urban Improvement Co. (P) Ltd. Connaught Place, New Delhi for compelling some 4,500 middle class plot holders of their Greenfields Colony to pay an additional amount of Rs. 6/- per sq. yd. over and above the agreed price of plots ;

(b) if so, whether Government have taken or propose to take executive or legislative action, to give relief to the complainants ; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH, FAMILY PLANNING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI B. S. MURTHY) : (a) to (c). Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Aid to States

7232. **SHRI S. K. TAPURIAH :** Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the steps the Planning Commission have taken to see that the amount advanced to the State Governments and the Departments of Government of India are utilised in time, efficiently and for the purposes earmarked by Parliament ; and

(b) the measures proposed to be taken in cases of violation of the conditions or deviations from the main purposes ?

THE DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER AND MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI MORARJI DESAI) : (a) and (b). The Central assistance to State Governments for their plan programmes is regulated in accordance with the patterns of assistance laid down by the Planning Commission. The Planning Commission conduct periodical reviews in order to see that the priorities set by them are adhered to. Final payments of Central assistance are made only on the basis of audited figures of actual expenditure.

As regards the expenditure of the Central Ministries, the concerned Ministries are responsible for ensuring timely,

efficient and proper utilisation of funds. Adequate provisions exist in the General Financial Rules to guide the executing agencies in ensuring observance of the purposes and conditions attached to the allocations.

12.03 hrs.

CALLING ATTENTION TO MATTER OF URGENT PUBLIC IMPORTANCE

Serious situation arising out of suspension of surgical operations in Calcutta hospitals

SHRI S. K. TAPURIAH (Pali) : I call the attention of the Minister of Health, Family Planning and Urban Development to the following matter of urgent public importance and I request that he may make a statement thereon :—

"The serious situation arising out of suspension of all surgical operations in Calcutta hospitals".

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH, FAMILY PLANNING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI SATYA NARAYAN SINHA) : The facts are that all surgical operations have been suspended in the N. R. Sarkar Hospital, Calcutta, pending completion of bacteriological investigation. In the R. G. Kar Medical College Hospital only one operation theatre is out of use temporarily. All other hospitals in the city are functioning normally. Besides these two hospitals, there are 12 major hospital—six Government hospitals and six private hospitals. Emergency cases in the N. R. Sarkar Hospital have been diverted to other hospitals by ambulance.

SHRI S. K. TAPURIAH : Sir, the present reply given by the hon. Minister also falls in line with the callous indifference that the various Governments of West Bengal have shown to this problem over the years. I am surprised that dirt, filth and insanitary conditions around make Calcutta hospitals a safe place for anything but speedy recovery of the patients. I do not know whether it has come to your notice that during a recent shack-demolition

[Shri S. K. Tapuria]

ordered by the Governor in the R. G. Kar Medical College, it was revealed that the shacks within the hospital premises were an organised den of crime—complete with thieves, illicit distillers, smugglers and prostitutes and that of 5000 people thrown out of those shacks, only 53 were hospital employees. How did those outsiders get into the hospital and stay there for a number of years? In another hospital, within a hundred yards of the operation theatre, a piggery exists and pigs are slaughtered. Then, whereas in 1962, there was 1 bed per 1000 persons in Calcutta, today there is only 82 bed per 1000 persons. That means that the number of beds in Calcutta hospitals has gone down, the facilities are going down and nothing is being done to improve the conditions there.

May I ask from the Minister whether it is a fact that of over 5000 people who were thrown out of shacks, only 53 persons were hospital employees. Does the Government also know that those groups or parties which have been objecting to these shack demolition orders in Calcutta recently are, in any way, connected with these doing? Has the Government considered the need for increasing the number of beds in the city of Calcutta and, if so, what is the Government's decision in this regard?

SHRI SATYA NARAYAN SINHA : Some of the information that the hon. Member has given is correct because the information which I have received from the West Bengal Government also mentions those facts. About the latter thing as to which parties or groups are associated with those dens, I do not know. I have no information about that. These shacks are there and they are being demolished. That is one of the reasons why there is a sudden strike and the functioning of one of the hospitals has been stopped.

SHRI S. K. TAPURIAH : What about increasing the number of beds in the hospitals of Calcutta?

SHRI SATYA NARAYAN SINGH : I have no information about that.

SHRI H. N. MUKERJEE (Calcutta North East) : Sir, it astounding that the

Minister appears to be so minimising what has happened in Calcutta. As you know, the situation has been very grave and newspapers, like, the *Amrit Bazaar Patrika* and *Hindustan Standard* have put up cartoons, one saying, "Is there any difference between death which will happen if the operation is not undertaken?" The condition is so bad. Then, as the demolition proceeded, there was a cartoon in the *Amrit Bazaar Patrika* saying, "Please, to save us from further infections, you must demolish the hospital too". And he tells us that nothing very much has happened.

May I know, in view of the report which appeared in these papers, emanating from representatives of the workers' organisations in the hospitals, that the workers' huts and shacks and all that had nothing to do with the Tetanus cases which were detected in hospitals and that they have made an allegation—I want to know if it is a fact—that surgical instruments were seldom sterilised because the machine for the purpose had been laying unused for several years? It is a vary definite allegation. May I know if Government is taking proper steps to see that the workers are provided for and the hospitals points are cleared of all the rubbish, human as well as animal, whatever else it might be, and, at the same time, is Government, in view of the break-down of hospital operations, knowing it is a major city, prepared to have a thorough probe into the matter because these shacks and huts, whoever lives there, whichever party, I do not know, have been in existence for a long enough time? They have not sprouted overnight. Therefore, a thorough probe is absolutely essential. I want to know the Government's mind in regard to that matter.

SHRI SATYA NARAYAN SINHA : The hon. Member has said about certain remarks which I have made. For the information of the House, with your permission, I would like to read out all the information which I have received in this regard regarding demolition. The hon. Member has also quoted what *Amrit Bazaar Patrika* has said, I do not know; they must have said something. But, with your permission, I will also read out what they have said in their leading articles; I shall read out the whole thing so that the House

may know what is the situation there. I shall also read out the latest information that I have received. (*Interruptions*) The hon. members will have patience, and if I have said anything, they may seek elucidation.

"Inside the compounds of these two hospitals many unauthorised structures have been put up for quite some years. At the time of construction of these unauthorised huts by the Class IV staff, they were served notices from time to time to demolish the huts within a specific time period, but they did not comply with these orders. These unauthorised structures were becoming a problem and even a trouble spot. The conditions in which they lived are filthy surrounded by cow-sheds and piggeries, thus creating unhealthy surroundings..."

This is in the campus of hospitals.

"...There were about 350 unauthorised structures in the N. R. Sarkar Hospital compound and 300 in the R. G. Kar Hospital compound..."

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BASU (Diamond Harbour): This is the position after 20 years of freedom!

SHRI SATYA NARAYAN SINHA : Including the last one year also.

"While some Class IV employees of the hospitals with or without their families lived in such structures, a large number of occupants were outsiders unconnected with the hospitals.

"According to a report from the Commissioner of Presidency Division, these slums within the hospital areas became dens of crime and vice such as gambling, illicit distillation and even prostitution. Among the occupants were criminals such as wagon breakers operating outside.

"There were also unauthorised Khatalas (cow sheds). Apart from congestion, crime and vice, these insanitary structures with their large human and animal population render hospital areas dangerously insanitary. The matters came to a head with incidence of tetanus after surgical operations in hospitals..."

I wonder why this did not take place earlier.

"The matters came to a head with incidence of tetanus after surgical operations in hospitals as a result of which the hospitals had to stop operations and further admission of surgical cases. Leading newspapers wrote editorials pointing out..."

AT HON. MEMBER : *Statesman*.

SHRI SATYA NARAYAN SINHA : *Statesman* and *Amrit Bazaar Patrika*. I do not know whether they had made caricatures and all those things, but they wrote editorials.

"Leading newspapers wrote editorials pointing out the immediate need for removal of unauthorised structures and insanitary conditions. The Governor directed the Health Department to take immediate action for eviction of trespassers and demolition of unauthorised structures. With the help of the Police and the Civil Defence authorities, eviction of the unauthorised occupants and demolition of unauthorised structures were ordered.

"The procedure adopted was that the Hospital Superintendent or his representative ordered the trespassers to leave and directed the demolition of unauthorised structures. The Police stood by to prevent breach of peace or violent obstruction. Men of Mobile Civil Emergency Force and West Bengal Civil Emergency Force acting under personal directions of the Commandant demolished all the unauthorised structures in accordance with the directions of the hospital representatives. The work of Mobile Civil Emergency Force and West Bengal Civil Emergency Force was limited to demolition of such structures as were unoccupied.

"Operations on this basis commenced at the N. R. Sarkar Hospital early morning on 10th April and at the R. G. Kar Hospital early morning on the 11th April. The duration of the operations was nine hours at the N. R. Sarkar Hospital. Actual physical obstruction to demolition was negligible. Police had to arrest only five

[Shri Satya Narayan Sinha]

persons, four from the N. R. Sarkar Hospital area and one from the R. G. Kar Hospital area. The arrested persons are being prosecuted under Section 41 of the Calcutta Suburban Police Act, 1866. They have been released on bail and the cases are now *sub judice*.

"Alternative accommodation was offered to the hospital employees in 144 tenements constructed under the Slum Clearance Scheme or the low income group scheme. Free transport was also offered. The hospital employees, however, have not moved to their new allotments but are staying on in the compound of the N. R. Sarkar Hospital.

"The employees of the N. R. Sarkar Hospital have gone on strike from 10th April. This has not, however, affected the working of the hospital materially..."

श्री स० मी० बनर्जी : (कानपुर) अध्यक्ष महोदय, यह स्टेटमेंट है या सत्यनारायण जी की कथा है ?

SHRI SATYA NARAYAN SINHA : I am giving all the information.

"The hospital is being managed with the voluntary assistance of 140 National Voluntary Force staff, students, nurses, House Medical Officers".

I will now read out the latest information which I have received just now, an hour before, on the Telex.

"This morning Class IV employees at the N. R. Sarkar Hospital are continuing their strike. As a result, hospital admission continues to be restricted. The erstwhile occupants of the unauthorised structures that were demolished are squatting all over the compound in scattered groups with their belongings. In some places some of them are attempting to put up improvised structures again. They are fouling the compound everywhere and, it is apprehended, that the insanitary conditions created by them may lead to an outbreak of epidemic like cholera. It may be added that no notice of the

strike by the Class IV workers was received and the strike is, therefore, illegal.

"At the R. G. Kar Hospital, there is a partial strike by the Class III and the Class IV staff and the nurses. But the services are being maintained by the doctors with the help of the non-striking nurses and Class III and Class IV staff. They are assisted by the students and the National Volunteer Force staff."

MR. SPEAKER : The hon. Minister has given the whole report. If any hon. Member asks a supplementary, it will be at his own risk.

SHRI H. N. MUKERJEE : I had a voluminous answer. But I had asked specifically about an allegation which appeared in the papers...

MR. SPEAKER : He could pick out from his report.

SHRI H. N. MUKERJEE : ...about the surgical instruments not being sterilised because the machines for that purpose have been lying unused for several years. He may not know whether it is a fact or not, but he may assure an inquiry into the matter and into the whole mess of business. I wanted that, but he has not said anything.

SHRI SATYA NARAYAN SINHA : About sterilisation of surgical instruments, it must be inquired into.

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Badrudduja. Not here. Shri Jyotirmoy Dasu.

SHRI JYOTIRMOY DASU : After hearing the statement of the hon. Minister, I feel, Sir, he has made a mole-hill of a mountain. He has thoroughly misled the House. If you read the Hindustan Standard, an important newspaper of Calcutta, you will see that it has been stated there that three Calcutta hospitals have completely suspended operations. Three such hospitals have completely suspended surgical operations. What has Shri Satya Narayan Sinha got to say about this ?

Either he has made an untrue statement or the paper has stated something which is untrue. I think he has made a mole-hill of a mountain. He has tried to make the thing very insignificant. *(Interruption)* West Bengal had been sending doctors all over the country, and all over the world. But the Directorate of Health Services in Calcutta is a place where nepotism, clique, indifference and corruption had been their motto since 1947. The whole medical directorate including the Director of Health Services are full of superannuated people, and these people were the *Jo-huzurs* to the Congress-bosses of those days. Now, they have thrown out thousands of Class IV employees from these hospitals. They have not made adequate arrangements for their accommodation. They have been thrown out. Now, the Governor had visited this NRS hospital on 21st of March. Certain doctors had pointed out to him, if you don't do something immediately, then there is apprehension of tetanus. Between the 21st of March and the 1st week of April, the gentleman (Shri Dharama Vira) who was so energetic in those days, in the earlier period, became slack. After we had seen the Health Minister who had put a trunk call and thus brought pressure on the Governor in this regard, then only certain action was taken in hand. Now, Sir, the Secretary of the Health Department, another callous and ignorant character, had the cheek to say that tetanus operation is something not unusual after operations. He said 'I have no knowledge of the occurrence of any tetanus case in any Calcutta hospital' and that he said quite recently. Under the circumstances may I know if the Government would be prepared to institute a thorough probe to fix the responsibility and ensure prevention of recurrence of such happenings in future.

SHRI SATYA NARAYAN SINHA : The hon. Gentleman saw me. Now he has mentioned about the mountain and the mole-hill. He came and told me, there was a mountain there. He said that a catastrophe had happened in Calcutta. When he met me, in his presence, I contacted the Governor and I received all the information which I have mentioned. But he has made such allegations.....*(Interruption)*. I think all my friends are gentleman. That is the only difference.

MR. SPEAKER : Order, order.

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BASU : Some officer should go there and make an independent inquiry. Has he done that ?

SHRI SATYA NARAYAN SINHA : That will be inquired into.

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Rabi Ray. Not here. Then, Papers laid on the Table.

SHRI S. M. BANERJEE : I wish to say something on the situation in U.P.

MR. SPEAKER : We have had a Calling Attention two or three days ago. A Calling Attention was allowed. Mr. Nath Pai and so many others spoke. It was on the day we adjourned, that is, last Friday.

SHRI S. M. BANERJEE : We want to know whether the Governor has really recommended. We want to know that.

MR. SPEAKER : He has not recommended to me. I am sure about this. I do not know what he has recommended.

SHRI S. M. BANERJEE : He met the Rashtrapathi today...

MR. SPEAKER : Let us see. The Home Minister is not here. He will let us know.

12.23 hrs.

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

Notifications under customs Act and Bengal Finance (Sales Tax) Act

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (Shri K. C. PANT) : I beg to lay on the Table—

(1) A copy each of the following Notifications under section 159 of the Customs Act, 1962 :

(i) G. S. R. 620 published in Gazette of India dated the 26th March, 1968. [Placed in Library, see No. LT-850/68].