[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."

Death of babies in

12 1; 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 t_0 indiscriminate use of antibiotics because of hospital infection"

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY PLANNING KARAN SINGH). Government's attention has been drawn to press reports regarding the alleged dcaths 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 Kalaviti Saran Children's Hospital in September 1975. From then to date a total of 125 cases of this infection amongst meants were detected in three hospitals, out of which 43 have proved fatal. This wos not due to indiscriminate use of antibiotics,

All Government hospitals in Delhi machinery to detect have adequate 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' he'd 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.—

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

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- 2. Dr R. R. Arora, National Institute of Communicable Discases. Delhi.
- 3. Dr. O. P. Sharma. Director Health Services, Delhi.
- Sharad Kumar, Deputy 4. Dr. General of Health D:rector Services Directorate General of Health Services Convenor

with the following terms of reference.

- 1. to investigate the appearance Salmonella Newport in Delhi Hospitals its origin, the effect it has had in terms of mortality and morbidity and the measures that have been taken so far by the hospital authorities to check the spread of this infection:
- effectiveness of 2. to assess the the machinery that exists in the hospitals to monitor and control the hospital cross infections, and
- 3. to suggest measures for the detection and control of such infections.

The Group should submit its report by 15th September, 1976.

> C. R. KRISHNAMURTHI Jt Secy to the Govt, of India

की मल सन्द जागा: ग्रध्यक्ष जी सब मे पहले तो में भाप का भागर मानता ह वि श्राप ने इस महत्वपूर्ण प्रक्रन के लिए मझे समय दिया भीर इस प्रश्न की सदन के नानने रखने का सबसर दिया लेकिन मैं एक बात की तरक ध्यान दिलाना का हता है कि अब वयोवुड भगता है तो अतीत मन्ता है और जब बच्चा मरता है, तो भविष्य भरता है।

जैसा कि मती जी बतलाने है कि इन देश के अन्दर सी सवा सी बच्चे, नवजात शिगुइसु बीनारी के मेंट हो गये लेकिन से बच्चों के अरने के बाद भी, यह हिन्दुस्तान ही एक ऐसा देश है जो कि निगतिबाद में विश्वाम स्वता है भीर भगर कोई दूसरा देश होता तो बहां पर जन-स्वास्थ्य विभाग के खिलाफ काफी प्रावाः। उठती । दिल्ली के 47 शस्यताली-में काफी बच्चों की मत्य हुई हैं भीर जगह-जगह मृत्यु होने के बाद भी ग्राप का जन-स्वास्थ्य विभाग इस बीमारी को रोक नहीं सका और यह इसलिए है कि यह देश नियतिवाद में विश्वास रखता है बीर मानाबों ने बचने बांसू यह समक्ष कर पोछ डाले कि हमारे भाग्य में लड़का ही नहीं लिखा था ।

मैं यह कहना चाहता हूं कि इस में सवाल यह है कि जब भाप यह कह रहे हैं कि सितम्बर 1975 में सबसे पहते लेडी हाडिंग कालेज मे, जो कि बन्चों का ग्रहाताल है, इस बीमारी का पता लगा गया या ग्रीर धार ने यह भी कहा है कि सिम्तबर 1975 में सारमोनेना न्यूपोर्ट, जो पि: 1200 कीटाणयों मे एक कीटाण है, का पता लगा भीर उस के बाद जनवरी 1976 में सफदरजंग ग्रस्पताल में भी दो मृत्यु हुई भीए डा० के० डी० शर्मा ने भी झावाज उठाई, लेकिन झाप ने इस बीनारी की रोन्धान के लिए कुछ नहीं किया। क्याइन लोगों की जगाने के लिए एलाम की घटिया बजनी चाहिए घो कि इस प्रकार की डेथस हो रही हैं चौर इस बीनारी की जाच करता जरूरी है। जब डा० के० डी० शर्मा ने ग्रावाज उठाई, सकदरजग अस्पनाल में मृत्यु हो गई और नितम्बर, 1975 के महीने में लैडी हार्डिंग काले ज में भी एक बच्चे की मन्त्र हो गई तब डाक्टरों ने कहा कि यह बड़ी रहन्यपूर्ण बीमारी है। मैं जानना चाहता हं नि सालमोनेला न्युपोर्ट की जो बीभारी है उस के कीटानमों ने कैसे घरनतालों में प्रवेश किया। इस को कैरियर करने वाने, इस को हारबर करने बाले कौन से लोग थे । वे नर्सेंब या कोम्याउम्बर्स थे या कोई बंगाल के दूसरे लोग इस को लाए क्योंकि [श्री मूलकर हाना]
हभारे राकरवान में तो यह बीमारी नहीं
होती है और बंगांच और शासाम में यह
होती है 1 मानं तर्न इस बातं का पता
नहीं लग सका कि ये कीटाणू कीन लोग
लाएं 1 एक बच्चा मरा हंसरा बच्चा भर
गया और सैकड़ों बच्चे इस तरह से मर गय
और सैकड़ों माताओं की कीच बाली हो गई
धीर से रोने सगीं 1

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क्रम्यस महोदय: डागा जी, जरा संक्षेप में स्वाल रुखिये मीर भाषण मत दीजिए।

शी मुलबाव कागा: पहला सवान में यह पूछना चाहना हूं कि किस किस अस्पताल में कृत कात कीन कीन सी तारीख को किस किस बच्चे की मृत्यु किस किस डाक्टर, इस प्रीर कमापान्डर के सामने दुई प्रीर उस का क्या कारण वा? एक प्रका मेरा यह भी या किस का उत्तर नहीं निजा।

दूसरा प्रधन मैं यह करना चाहता हूं कि अब सितम्बर 1975 में लैडी हाडिंग भालेज के बच्चों के घरनाल में सबसे पहने सालमोनेला न्यपोर्ट के कारण बच्चों की मृन्यु हुई मौरडा० के० डी० समी ने भी इन बारे में भावाज उठाई, तो उस के बाद साप से क्या प्रीकाशन्स लिये जिससे बच्चों की मृत्यु न हो ?

तीसरा प्रथम यह है कि इस बीमारी को लाने वाले इस बीमारी के कैरियर कौन कौन थे थीर किन प्रकार ग्राप ने इस को डिटेक्ट किया ?

भेषा प्रक्त यह है कि क्या भ्राप ने सारे उन अस्पतालों के प्रसुतिगृहों को या उन जगहों को बन्द किया, जहां पर से बच्चे बराबर भर रहे थे ?

पांचवा प्रश्न जो मैं रखना चाहता हूं वह यह है कि साप के पास तारे सोझन मीजूद हैं भीर भाग के पास एन० भाई ० डी॰ सी० भीर भान दिन्दवा इंस्टीट्यूट शक नैकियन साइसेंज जैसी बड़ी बड़ी संस्थाएं हैं। इन संस्थामों ने साहभोनेला न्यू गेंट की बीनारी के बारे में क्या खोजबीन की है भीर अगर जांच की हैतो ऐसे क्या उराय बनाएं हैं जिन से भविषय में इस प्रकार की बीनारी की रोक्याम की जासने।

एक बात भीर कानना चाहता ह कि इस बीकारी के कारण जिन जिन मातामां भीर जिन जिन लोगों के बच्चे संसार से चले गये. इस की जिम्मेदारी आप किन पर डाल रहे हैं भीर किस किस कारण से ऐसा हुया है। क्या हमारे घस्पतालों में धाज भी हाइजिन भीर स्ताई की कमी है ? क्या हमारे भस्पतालों में पाज भी ठीन प्रकार की मेडिनल एड नहीं मिनती है ? अ.ज भी अस्ततालों में जियर नेगनीजेत के जारम मृत्युएं होती रहती हैं। यह जो वक्चों की मृत्युए हई हैं क्या इतके अन्दर यह कारण तो नहीं है कि प्रापर हाइजिन की कमी रही हो. मेडिकल एड की कमी रही हो ? अस्पतालों में सकाई की बहुत कमी पाई जाती है और इससे भी बच्चे भरत है।

MR. SPEAKER: Order, please. I think the tendency in the House is somehow to convert the call attention into a debate and, unnecessary time is wasted. The rules are very clear. I shall quote: Rule 197(2) says.

"(2) There shall be no debate on such statement at the time it is made (but each member in whose name the item stands in the list of business may, with the permission of the Speaker, ask a question..."

I will not confine myself very literally. You can formulate your questions and you can make two or three points but not put so many questions—1, 2, 3, 4 and 5—and you go on for ten mautes or 12 minutes and then the Minister?

takes another ten minutes and thus it is converted into a debate I would request the hon Members-because I am allowing more call attentions—to confine themselves to half an hour to the whole thing in general cases and in some cases which are very important the whole thing may take not more than 25 to 40 minutes

SHRI M C DAGA Mr Speaker Sir, this is the practice that generally in a particular call attention, in the House, the Minister makes a state ment and then he gives replies to ques tions I shall put specific questions in future if you want

MR SPEAKER I have cited the That is for your guidance rule

DR. KARAN SINGH Sir I entirely agree with the hon Member when he says that the death of a child is always more poignant and tragic even than perhaps the passing away of somebody in ripe old age because, the man in his ripe old age has fulfilled most of his points The point is this I can assure the hon Member that I myself have been deeply concerned not only with regard to this particular instance but generally with regard to others He rightly raised the question of hygi ene and the rate of infection in hospi tals in general I shall deal with them briefly On salmonella in fact there was a WHO and ICMR Workshop on mycrobiological investigations in Nosocomial and Streptococcal Infections which was held in January this year and we are following this up ery closely in order to see what needs to be done to lower the infection rate The reasons for these infections have got to be understood sometimes there are carriers, sometimes the mother is infected and sometimes there are in fections within the hospital itself Some of these children were born in this hospital while some of them came their birth here immediately after Some of the children were born some what prematurely and, as you know. for the child born prematurely, the defence mechanism is not adequately developed and therefore the rate of mortality is somewhat high. In any case, we would now set up not only a group to look into these but I shall have a series of personal meetings I would like to admit that the rate of infection in the hospitals in this country is still unexceptionally high Delhi should be a model for the rest of the country I am not at all satisfied with the present rate of infections and I am trying to see what measures need to be taken These measures will include extending the hospitals and giving more and more staff particularly nursing staff and by providing clean and sterilised facilities for the children whenever they are born and also of educating the community in general with regard to the health practices and with regard to keeping the babies clean, we are taking a series of measures which will need to be taken

I would only like to submit to my hon friend Shri Daga that there is no question of any complacency, or anybody having to be awakened Certainly we have been aware of this and we are taking the steps that are necessary to meet it

assure that hospital Nobody can infections will not take place Child more advanced mortality even m unfortunate fact of countries is an life All we can ensure is-as Mr Daga said-that due to negligence, lack of cleanliness or due to hygiene there should be no avoidable deaths

I am grateful to Mr Daga for having given me the opportunity to say on the floor of the House that as soon as the report of this high-power ed committee, in which high-level officers of my Ministry and the Delhi Administration are involved, is received by me I will initiate immediate action on whatever necessary steps are required to be taken to improve the facilities here.