

had announced it in Allahabad and this scheme has come into effect from 1st December. Every Freedom Fighters who draws pension from the Central Government will be issued cheque pass for six months and his spouse or attendant is also allowed in the same class.

SHRI NAWAL KISHORE SHARMA : I want to know whether the passes have actually been issued or it is still a scheme ?

SHRI BANSI LAL : Orders have been issued to passes. As and when the Freedom Fighters start approaching the railway authorities, they would start getting passes.

[English]

SHRI NAWAL KISHORE SHARMA : It should be issued automatically. Where is the question of paying 'as and when' ?

MR. SPEAKER : Order what is this ? This is not a free for all. Now Prof. Ranga.

PROF. N.G. RANGA : It is not a fact that the railway passes for the President and the Secretary of the All India Freedom Fighters Organization were cancelled by my hon. friend, Mr. Dandavate, inspite of the representation I myself also had made to him ? That cancellation still continues even today, under the present Railway Minister, inspite of repeated requests on our behalf.

It is also not a fact that even over the decisions, suggestions or concessions offered by the Prime Minister, we have made a further representation for a better utilization of that concession ? The hon. Minister has been good enough to say that he would reconsider his earlier decision.

SHRI BANSI LAL : I do not know whether Prof Dandavate had cancelled the passes or not. But Mr. Sheel Bhadra Yajee is President of the Freedom Fighters Association, and we have given him a Card Pass. He holds it.

MR. SPEAKER : Now next question : Mr. Das Muni.

PROF. N.G. RANGA : What about the General Secretary ? The General Secretary has got to go round the whole of India. (Interruptions).

Indoor patients treated at AIIMS

*729. **SYED SHAHABUDDIN :** Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) the number of indoor patients treated at the All India Institute of Medical Sciences, New Delhi during 1985 ;

(b) break up of the total number State/ Union Territory-wise ;

(c) the break-up income-groupwise ; and

(d) the number of VIPs treated during 1985 and the number of beds/rooms reserved for them, if any ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR) : (a) 46,068.

(b) Delhi	30,962
Haryana	4,095
U.P.	6,854
Punjab	378
Rajasthan	651
Other States	2,844
Foreign Nationals	284

(c) The Institute does not maintain income-wise data of patients.

(d) No specific data is maintained as to the number of VIPs treated in AIIMS. No beds or rooms have been specifically reserved for VIPs.

SYED SHAHABUDDIN : The All India Institute of Medical Sciences, as we all know, is an institution of national importance which should theoretically have equal access for all citizens of the country who make the particular grade or fulfil the criterion for admission. We were advised that the criterion for admission is not rank or origin or domicile. But I want to know whether a particular sickness that is sought to be treated cannot be treated even by a specialist even at a State Capital and then these patients have to be referred to this institution of national importance. We however find that three States, Delhi, Haryana and U.P., I dare say not the whole of Haryana, not the whole of U.P. but only a few districts of Haryana and a few districts of U.P. close to Delhi, account roughly for 95

per cent of the patients treated by All India Institute of Medical Sciences. To my mind, therefore, this is a detraction from the national importance of the institution. Has the criterion been changed or whether some method is to be introduced by the Government or by the authorities of the All India Institute of Medical Sciences that all serious and research-oriented cases referred by local specialists from anywhere in India can have equal access to the All India Institute of Medical Sciences or alternatively should there be similar institution of high quality in other regions of the country ?

MR. SPEAKER : How can you expect people from Madras to come to Delhi for treatment ?

SYED SHAHABUDDIN : The cannot come from Madras, but I can tell you, there are many cases coming from my State, Bihar, which are of the highest urgency ; and they are refused admission.

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY : Some patients come from my State and they are asked to come again in 1989.

MR. SPEAKER : There should be a diversification regionally.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE : Even to die, people go from different places to Varanasi.

MR. SPEAKER : It should be region-wise so that it can be approachable.

SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR : As per the All India Institute of Medical Sciences, it is not strictly specified that this Institution has to be a referral hospital. However, the Review Committee appointed by us has recommended that it should preferably be run as a referral hospital. Later on, the Estimates Committee of this Lok Sabha, in the 54th Report and 70th Report, said that if it is made a strictly referral hospital without building up peripheral infrastructure in Delhi and the surrounding areas, it will cause a grave hardship to the people and therefore, the time is not now opportune to strictly implement the concept of a referral hospital. As far as AIIMS is concerned, at the moment, 30 per cent of the patients of the Institution are referral and the other 70 per cent are not referral ; they are just like in a normal hospital. The peripheral faci-

lities are infrastructure in Delhi are being progressively implemented as per the time schedule which ends by the end of the Seventh Plan. As regards admission, severity of the disease is the criterion and everybody who comes to this hospital is admitted subject to availability of space and facilities.

SYED SHAHABUDDIN : I doubt whether the Minister has got the figures. Even if his contention is that only 30 per cent is earmarked for referral cases, perhaps in that 30 per cent, perponderance would be only for local and nearby patients.

My second question relates to part (d) of my main question. The Minister said that there was no specific data about the VIPs. Now, I am absolutely amazed it. I think, the general impression among the people is that even if a VIP suffers a minor ailment he can get admission to the All India Institute of Medical Sciences. At least, this is what the people believe. In the statement the Minister has said that no rooms or beds are reserved for VIPs. I know that this is completely wrong. I can give you even the number of rooms that are reserved for VIPs there. I would, therefore, like to know : why is it that the authorities are not even maintaining some data about the VIPs, some of whom I am sure, even ring up the hon. Minister and the Deputy Minister for access or admission to this hospital ?

SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR : We did not say in the main answer that the VIPs are not treated there. We merely said that the details of the numbers of VIPs treated are not kept.

SYED SHAHABUDDIN : If the names are kept, the numbers can be found.

MR. SPEAKER : Next time, we will send them somewhere else. (*Interruptions*) VIPs are hereby informed that they are not to fall sick any more.

SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR : With regard to Members of Parliament, as soon as a Member of Parliament is admitted to the AIIMS, as per the rules of the Sabha, the intimation is given to the Speaker.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE : That is not the case. It is only when we are arrested,

SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR : Of the total of 1100 beds in the hospital, 65 beds are private beds. There is no separate reservation for V.I.Ps. We stand by that statement.

[*Translation*]

SHRI RAM NAGINA MISHRA : Sir, there should be separate arrangement for V.I.Ps.

SHRI GIRDHARI LAL VYAS : Hon. Speaker, Sir, you may tell them to make separate arrangements for us at every place.

(*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY : How can anybody plead for reservation for V.I.Ps ?

(*Interruptions*)

SHRI SANTOSH MOHAN DEV : Now V.I.Ps do not go there because we get good treatment in the Annexe by virtue of you, Sir. We think you for that. There is a good arrangement. I now put my question.

From my experience of the last several years I can say that those patients who come from North-eastern region to the All India Institute of Medical Sciences, are given time to come after seven or eight months. Many of them die in this period and they do not get a chance to come back again. In view of that, I ask why is it that medical facilities are not available in such remote areas ? Is it possible to introduce some norms so that when patients come from remote areas, they are admitted at the earliest possible date and the treatment is given to them in time ?

[*Translation*]

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI MOHSINA KIDWAI) : With regard to the point raised by the hon. Member, I would like to say that sometimes a situation comes when we have to tell the patient that we cannot provide him a bed because the treatment can be given according to the facilities available. We are making efforts for the last two years to build more Operation Theaters. Secondly, the people consider the All India Institute of Medical Sciences a centre of excellence and that is why people

from all parts of the country visit this Institute. While agreeing with my colleague on his reply to Shri Shahabuddin's question, I would like to say that there is no separate reservation for the V.I.Ps., but at the same time I would like to request the hon. Members of this august House kindly not to telephone us with the request for a room. It is our endeavour to provide them treatment but as of now there is no reservation for V.I.Ps. If a V.I.P. is in trouble, he also being a human being, efforts are made for him also.

Second thing that I want to say is that we have only 65 private rooms of which 5 rooms have been kept for the Faculty Members and the Staff. It leaves us with 55 rooms which have so much rush that we become helpless. The number of other beds is about 800. The patients are admitted accordingly. But I want to mention one thing in this House that we have recently increased some beds in Cardio Thoracic and Neuro Science Centre and Cancer Department. We hope that with this the number of beds will increase by 350. Eight more operation Theatres would start functioning by 1987. I hope, by that time we would be able to provide some relief. As of now, we send back our hon. Members, V.I.Ps. and other patients who come from outside by saying that we have no rooms, operation theatres ; we do not have Post Operative Care Units and I.U.C. Units. It is our endeavour to increase their numbers and we hope to add another 350 beds for this purpose. Going by the present rush, we hope that we shall be able to provide some help by then.

MR. SPEAKER : Why don't you take this Akbar Hotel and construct private wards there because this Hotel has already closed down.

[*English*]

Why don't you change this into private ward sort of thing ?

Replacement of the Old Mattanchery Bridge at Cochin Part

*730. **PROF. K.V. THOMAS :** Will the Minister of TRANSPORT be pleased to state ;

(a) whether the Mattanchery bridge at Cochin Port has completed its safety period ;