

(d) & (e). The results of the study done by the Indian Council of Medical Research on the use of Sodium thiosulphate do not support the views expressed in the Press. Wide-ranging clinical and epidemiological follow-up actions have already been initiated by the Government of Madhya Pradesh in consultation with experts. The Indian Council of Medical Research, besides collaborating with the State Government, has initiated several multi-disciplinary studies to cover the various facets of the problem. Experts are unanimous that there is no short-term cure to all the medical problems being faced by the affected people and that a careful, long-term follow-up of all the cases is the only possible approach.

#### Treatment of Victims of Bhopal Gas Tragedy

\*40. SHRI C. MADHAV REDDY : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether wrong drug was used for treatment of patients in Bhopal gas tragedy and if so, corrective steps taken/proposed ;

(b) whether it is a fact that the treatment recommended by ICMR is considered to be wrong ; and

(c) whether Government propose to set up an effective machinery which can act speedily and effectively to meet such accidents and occurrences ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH (SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) According to the information available with the Government, the existing machinery available with the various state Governments to deal with the medical relief required after such industrial accidents and disasters is fairly adequate. The system is strength-

ened and augmented from time to time by the concerned State Governments as per their requirement. The union Government supplements the efforts of the concerned state governments whenever required.

[Translation]

SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the reply to this question is not satisfactory because many lives have been lost and many people are still in critical conditions. It has been stated that no cure could be found. I would like to know from the hon. Minister as to when the treatment would be found. I would also like to know the action taken by Government on the suggestions made in the Seminar of Lawyers and Medical Association held in Delhi recently.

[English]

Since still a very large number of persons are suffering from the after effects of the gas and as according to our own scientists like Dr. Paintal and a British scientist who visited the country recently, greater use of oxygen will be more useful, I would like to know whether Government will create more centres in Bhopal and in all main hospitals in the country where this can be given free since many may not be able to avail of this costly treatment. Without this, many who are suffering now will be reduced into a mental cabbage, a paralytic and live with a choking throat. What is the reaction to this ?

SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA : Sir, as I have said, earlier the hon. Minister for Chemicals and Fertilizers in his statement dated 18th January 1985, has said that all possible steps are taken by the Government and all doctors and other facilities available elsewhere are also brought to Bhopal just to help the victims.

SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL : I could not understand what possible

steps are already taken, which steps Government have already initiated.

MR. SPEAKER : Medical steps.

SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL : I could not understand this. I asked specifically whether oxygen will be available and Government will create centres or not.

SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA : Sir, earlier oxygen cylinders were in shortage and so they were transported from Delhi by air and from other places also. They were brought from Kanpur—from the Indian Oxygen Factory also. We asked them to transport it immediately.

[*Translation*]

• SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL : Mr. Speaker, Sir in reply to part (c) of the question, it has been stated that the Government has seen such reports in the Press and they did not know anything about it earlier. I would like to know the remedy suggested by Indian Council of Medical Research and the action taken by government in this regard. I would also like to know as to who suggested Sodium Thiosulphate and now far it was used in the treatment and whether it has been banned or not; and, if not, the reasons therefor.

[*English*]

SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA : Sir, for Sodium Thiosulphate we have sought help from W.H.O. also and from all available resources with doctors and scientists to help in this calamity. So, one German Toxicologist Dr. Daunderer, suggested that Sodium Thiosulphate can be useful and as the hon. Member and the entire House knows the German experts have some experience in this treatment. So he suggested Sodium Thiosulphate and it has helped to a certain extent because when given, it has demonstrated that administration of Sodium Thiosulphate increased the excretion of Thiocyanide in the urine. So, it has helped. I have said in my

reply also that whatever appeared in the press is not correct. I have specifically denied it.

SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE : Sir, I would like to know whether the Minister is aware that there was strong suspicion expressed that cyanide poisoning probably was found in the victims. There was an Army person admitted in the AIIMS. It is learnt that the POST MORTEM report had revealed cyanide poisoning while the Union Carbide denied stating that it was not so. I would like to know from the Minister whether he is aware of that POST MORTEM report; if so, whether it is cyanide poisoning and if not, whether he would go into this question and see that this does not effect adversely.

SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA : Sir I do not know which POST MORTEM report the hon. lady Member is referring to.

MR. SPEAKER : You get the information from the Member and follow it up.

SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA : But as I have already said, a double blind study demonstrated that Sodium Thiosulphate administration increased the excretion of in the urine. So Sir, the POSTMORTEM report does show the cyanide poisoning.

SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE : Sir I hope regarding your proposal to take up the matter, it would be followed up by the Minister.

PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ : Sir will you kindly ask the Minister to give reply to Question No. 37 also, which is a similar one?

MR. SPEAKER : No, we did not take that up now.

#### Spread of Meningitis Disease

28. PROF. P. J. KURIEN :  
SHRI CHITTA MAHATA :

Will the Minister of HEALTH