

SHRI SUDINI JAIPAL REDDY :
The prevention of a question is better than the cure of an answer.

PROP. P. J. KURIEN : Is it not that we are not having sufficient preventive measures? Is it not a fact that so far we have not started vaccination for immunising the people at least in the vulnerable areas?

SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA :
We have not reached that stage where we have to vaccinate all the people. In case of an epidemic or a disease in a cluster, we can surround the area and vaccinate the surrounding population. But that is not the case here. These are sporadic cases occurring in different parts of the city and in different places. So, it does not invite vaccination EN MASSE.

SHRI CHITTARANJAN MAHATA :
I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether this disease is identified as viral or bacterial and which part of the country is the most affected by it?

SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA : It is bacterial.

SHRI CHITTARANJAN MAHATA :
What bacteria?

SHRI NARAYAN CHOUBEY : Congress bacterial!

SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA :
Meningo Coccal is the bacteria.

SHRI C. P. THAKUR : This disease occurs all over India throughout the year in a sporadic form. Sometimes it erupts in an epidemic form and it is bacterial infection caused by Meningo Coccal. It is not virus. Just now, the hon. Minister has said that it is caused by Mening Coccal. In that case, all the drugs to treat that disease are available in the country, like the Sulpha diazine, Chloromphenicol, Penicillin and Gertamycine. It is sensitive to these drugs. The patient dies only if the infection is very serious or if the

bacteria are resistant to drugs which is rare.

MR. SPEAKER : I have got lot of doctors. Why don't we make a committee of them?

SHRI C. P. THAKUR : The patient dies only if the drugs are not administered at an early stage. I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether the patient died because of the severity of the infection or because Meningo Coccal were found resistant to drugs. Is there any report on that?

SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA :
I have the information with me about the bacteria. This bacteria is not A & C type.

SHRI C. P. THAKUR : I want to know whether this disease is resistant to drugs or not.

SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA :
If immediate treatment is administered to the patient, then it is cured. If the treatment is delayed, it becomes fatal. So far, no drug resistance is noticed in any of the cases treated.

Then, about the sufficiency of preventive drugs, we have sufficient preventive drugs, the sulpha diazine.

Setting up Thermal Power Plant at Kharsia

*29. **KUMARI PUSHPA DEVI :**
Will the Minister of IRRIGATION AND POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have a proposal for the establishment of a Thermal Power Plant at Kharsia in Madhya Pradesh; and

(b) if so, the steps taken to implement the above Proposal?

THE MINISTER OF IRRIGATION AND POWER (SHRI B. SANKARANAND) : (a) The Mahya Pradesh State Electricity Board has sent to the Cen-

tral Electricity Authority a proposal to set up a thermal station at Kharsia.

(b) The proposal is in the State sector and Madhya Pradesh Electricity Board has been requested to obtain the clearance of the State Pollution Control Board, State revenue authorities and the Ministry of Agriculture.

KUMARI PUSHPA DEVI : The hon. Minister has stated in his reply that the Government of Madhya Pradesh has sent to Central Electricity Authority a proposal to set up a thermal station at Kharsia. I would like to know when that proposal was received by Central Electricity Authority and what was the estimate of cost in the original proposal ?

SHRI B. SHANKARANAND : The hon. lady Member had written a letter to the Energy Minister and it was replied that the proposal was received by the Minister in July, 1983.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE : He should not read the letters written by ladies to others.

SHRI B. SHANKARANAND : They are sometimes interesting.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH (SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA) : Not sometimes ; always.

SHRI B. SHANKARANAND : The proposal was received in July, 1983 ; this is a proposal to set up a thermal station of 2 × 210 MW capacity in Stage I in district Raigarh, the district of the hon. Member. Stage I of the Project is estimated to cost about Rs. 371 crores. It is being examined from technoeconomic and viability point of view.

KUMARI PUSHPA DEVI : May I know whether the Thermal Power Station at Kharsia will be commissioned before the end of the Seventh Plan period and, since the above project is going to be set up in a backward area

in Madhya Pradesh, what steps are being taken to implement the proposal expeditiously ?

SHRI B. SHANKARANAND : The proposal is to set up the thermal plant at a site about 30 kms. from Raigarh town, on the banks of the river Kurket, a tributary of river Mand. This is going to be a joint project of Madhya Pradesh and Gujarat. As I said earlier, Stage I is going to cost about Rs. 371 crores. Coal is proposed to be procured from the nearby Mand-Raigarh coalfields and water from a reservoir to be created on river Kurket by construction of a dam. However, firm coal linkage and other inputs have yet to be tied up. The Central Electricity Authority envisage benefits from Stage I of the Project during the Eighth plan.

Conversion of Macherla-Guntur Metre Gauge Line into Broad Gauge

*30. **SHRI VADDE SOBHANADREESWARA RAO :** Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Railway Board has approved a proposal for conversion of Macherla-Guntur metre gauge section into broad gauge section ;

(b) if so, the progress of the scheme and its present stage ; and

(c) by what time the work is likely to be completed ?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANSI LAL) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Work on two bridges has been taken up. The progress of work on these two bridges is 98%.

(c) The completion of the project will depend on the availability of resources in the coming years.

SHRI VADDE SOBHANADREESWARA RAO : In view of the fact that the Macherla area has got abundant reserves of limestone mineral as well