

In respect of the curative aspect, I am afraid, we can only go a part of the way. The rest, the State Governments would have to meet. Right now I see very little chance of our being able to enhance what we are giving because in the areas of health there is so much more to be done. I would certainly find out if not this year, may be by next year—if we can. But that is not to be taken as an assurance. At the moment our entire emphasis and concentration is on health programmes—the prophylactic aspects of the programme.

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA : As a result of the new drug policy adopted by the Central Government, the prices of all essential drugs will be increased by 30 to 40%. In view of this, I would like to know whether the Government propose to make some arrangements, so that the poor people of our country can get the essential drugs at a cheaper cost.

SHRI P.V. NARASIMHA RAO : Sir, the drug policy comes under some other Ministry. Generally I don't agree with the formulation given by the Hon. Member that as a result of the new drug policy prices have shot up by 40% or 50%. That will have to be gone into separately. At the moment I am not in a position to say how much will be the increase. But I feel that the entire idea of the policy was that whereas essential drugs were becoming more and more scarce, their manufacture was becoming more and more uneconomic for the manufacturers—we were grouping as to what is to be done in order to make them available in the country; let alone the price. So, that seems to be the thrust of the new policy as far as I have studied it. We can go into it if that is the subject matter of discussion here. Incidentally, I am not dealing with the subject.

DR. KRUPASINDHU BHOI : Hon. Speaker, Sir, I want to ask some clarification from the hon'ble, distinguished and intelligent Minister that according to Alma Atta declaration signed by Mrs. Indira Gandhi in 1977 we have adopted national health policy in this House. The

primary responsibility of the Union Government is to monitor that the treatment goes to the door of the patient. Casing on that I want to know what is the situation in each hospital to give medicine, per OPD patient, worth 50 paise or one rupee.

I would also like to know whether for leprosy, tuberculosis and blindness we are supplying all the medicines. Themibutal, pyraginamite and refamicin will come under the purview and what is the quota he has fixed for the primary health centres and other centres.

SHRI P.V. NARASIMHA RAO : I have said that whatever drugs are needed in the national programmes are being supplied. Coming to the 'Health for All—2000' it is a two-way traffic. I cannot take health to every door if the householder invites all diseases to his door. It will have to be a coordinated effort between the people, Government, voluntary organisations, Members of Parliament, etc. That is the programme which is being planned on that basis.

Meningitis Deaths

[*Translation*]

*409. **SHRI RAM DHAN :** Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the deaths caused by meningitis have been increasing alarmingly over the years ;

(b) whether it is also a fact that hospitals do not keep sufficient stock of necessary medicines to treat emergency cases ; and

(c) the action being taken to protect the lives of victims of this curable disease ?

[*English*]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (KUMARI SAROJ KHAPARDE) : (a) According to the available figures 1848 deaths due to

Meningitis were reported in 1986 as against 2216 deaths during 1985. The trend seems to be a declining one.

(b) No shortage of drugs have been reported from anywhere.

(c) While the Directorate General of Health Services has been directly monitoring the incidence and fatality pattern in Delhi on a weekly basis, the State Governments have been advised to tighten the surveillance and to arrange for speedier and more appropriate case-management. Drugs and medicines required for the treatment of meningitis are usually available in all the district and State hospitals.

[Translation]

SHRI RAM DHAN : Mr Speaker, Sir, the hon. Minister has not replied to my question correctly. I had asked about the deaths caused during the last few years, but he has given the figures only for one year. Very often, the newspapers carry reports to the effect that the medicines are not available in the district hospitals and the disease is not treated properly. These shortcomings are more pronounced, especially in tribal areas of the district. The hon. Minister has given the figures as also the measures adopted only in the case of Delhi. But no mention has been made as to what is the number of deaths caused due to meningitis in different States and the steps taken in this regards ?

KUMARI SAROJ KHAPARDE : Mr. Speaker, Sir, in reply to the question asked by the hon. Member, I would like to say that meningitis is a disease which breaks out throughout the country. It has no set time. However, its incidence is more in winters and spring. In 1985, the disease was mostly restricted to Kerala, West Bengal, Delhi and Rajasthan but in 1986, it broke out in Maharashtra, West Bengal and Delhi. However, a decline in its incidence has been noticed as may be seen from the fact that in 1985, the number of cases reported in Delhi was 5658 whereas it was 3799 in 1986. Similarly, the number of deaths in 1985 due to this

disease in Delhi was 697 as against 590 in 1986. Likewise, the number of cases in Kerala in 1985 was 1779 as against 324 in 1986. The number of deaths in the same State in 1985 was 31 as against 8 in 1986. The number of cases and number of deaths in Maharashtra in 1985 were 738 and 130 respectively as against 2191 and 387 in 1986.

[English]

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE : What is the target for the next year, Sir ?

[Translation]

SHRI RAM DHAN : She has said nothing about the shortage of medicines in hospitals. She has told just about Delhi.

[English]

SHRI AMAL DATTA : She hasn't received any complaint from anywhere else !

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT AND MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI P.V. NARASIMHA RAO) : It has already been stated that the medicines are available and no complaint from anywhere to the effect that any deaths have occurred due to non-availability of medicines has been received. 'Usually available at all the district hospitals', that is what has already been said in the reply.

[English]

DR. G.S. RAJHANS : Sir, from my personal experience, I can say that it is well-nigh impossible to get the patients of meningitis admitted in Delhi hospitals. I had to run from pillar to post to get a few patients admitted in the Safdarjang Hospital. When I told the doctors repeatedly that the patients belong to my constituency and I am a Member of Parliament and I will raise it in the House, then only the doctors admitted those patients, May

I know from the Hon. Minister whether he will ensure it that the patients don't face these difficulties in and around Delhi?

SHRI AMAL DATTA : What about your constituency?

SHRI P.V. NARASIMHA RAO : This is a very omnibus assurance that he wants. Naturally every case will depend on its own seriousness. The authorities are there to admit. I don't think it is possible for me to say anything absolutely categorically. We will certainly try. When I am told about a patient to be admitted, we help, my Minister of State helps, others help. This is going on all the time, Sir. But it is not just possible to make some cast-iron assurance this.

[*Translation*]

SHRI JAGANNATH CHOUDHARY : Hon. Speaker, Sir, there have been number of deaths to meningitis in all the districts of Varanasi Division of Uttar Pradesh, but the hon. Minister has not even mentioned the name of eastern Uttar Pradesh in the reply. Complaints are still being received that there is no arrangement for the medicines in that part of the country. Therefore, I would like to know from the hon. Minister of Health whether he would make an arrangement to make available the medicines for the treatment of meningitis cases in all hospitals of eastern Uttar Pradesh?

[*English*]

SHRI P.V. NARASIMHA RAO : I have answered several questions in Parliament about different diseases and the incidence of those diseases in the country. I have said time and again and I repeat, Sir, that the arrangements for getting all the statistics of morbidity in this country are far from satisfactory. We can get information perhaps more readily from Delhi. There is a central arrangement here, called the National Institute of Health Intelligence. But what will the Institute do? What is the kind of statistics they will maintain if they do not get any feedback from the State Governments?

On this, Sir, I have taken up the matter personally. Now I am going to call the Health Ministers and also talk to other authorities at the State level. If we can ensure two things: vital statistics, which again are in a state of rather unsatisfactory situation, and statistics in regard to the incidence of diseases, I hope to be able to improve the situation in the near future. But it cannot be said that when there are so many authorities to report from hospitals and other places, you can have absolutely accurate figures country-wide. We hope to improve on what it is today.

[*Translation*]

SHRI JAGANNATH CHOUDHARY : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether he would call for a report in this regard from the Government of Uttar Pradesh?

MR. SPEAKER : That is all.

SHRI P.V. NARASIMHA RAO : You write to me. I will call for a report and let you know the position.

[*English*]

New Family Planning Slogan—"One or Non"

*412. **SHRI KADAMBUR JANARTHANAN :** Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are considering a new slogan for family planning—"One or None"; and

(b) if so, when this new strategy would be followed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (KUMARI SAROJ KHAPARDHE) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

SHRI KADAMBUR JANARTHANAN : Though the question may look funny, the success of all our planning mainly depends