

the hon. Member has misunderstood me. I have said that it is already included in the 7th Plan—not that it will now be included. It is already there in the 7th Plan. We hope to declare it so. (*Interruptions*)

The 7th Plan continues. The moment the 7th Plan is over, *i.e.* only then he can raise a doubt.

Regarding the Madhya Pradesh portion, I will check and let the hon. Member know how much of the Madhya Pradesh portion comes in here.

**SHRI H.N. NANJE GOWDA :** There are some countries which are very much experienced, and are pioneers in these inland waterways. So, I would like to know whether any assistance from such countries is sought for. If so, what are the details ?

**SHRI RAJESH PILOT :** It is a fact that some countries have done very well in this sector; and we have also taken some help, in studies and technical help, from Netherlands. Some German experts have also given their advice. We hope to pick up the best out of all that is available, as of today. That is why we are holding on for some time, because we want to have a long range planning, so that when we start now, for the next 25 to 30 years, we sustain it and we achieve the results, and the intentions which Government has got for the 7th Plan. What the hon. Member has in mind, Government has the same thing in mind, *i.e.* we will consult the best performing country in this sector.

**National Institute and Research Council  
on Siddha System of Medicine**

\*227. **SHRI K. RAMAMURTHY :** Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Union Government have requested the Government of Tamil Nadu for grant of facilities in the State for setting up a National Institute and Research Council on Siddha system of medicine and if so, whether the State Government has conveyed its decision in this regard;

(b) whether Union Government propose

to import 10 units of full body scanners and

(c) if so, whether two such units will be given to Tamil Nadu ?

**THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE  
MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY  
WELFARE (KUMARI SAROJ  
KHAPARDE) :** (a) No, Sir. However, the matter is being examined.

(b) and (c). Possibilities of obtaining some C.T. Scanners through bilateral assistance programmes are being explored by the Government. There are no indications as yet as to whether any scanners would be available in the near future.

**SHRI K. RAMAMURTHY :** Sir, through you I would like to ask the hon. Minister of State for Health : Apart from allopathy, we in our country have traditional medicine systems like Siddha, Ayurveda and Unani. It is also well known that where allopathic medicines could not cure certain diseases, our own traditional medicine systems are able to cure them. In this respect, I think most of the States have recommended exploring the possibility of creating infrastructure for research in this field of traditional medicine systems.

In Tamil Nadu, Government has already created the infra-structure *viz.* by establishing Siddha Medical Colleges. I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether, for the purpose of creating research institutions in Siddha, Central Government has instructed, directed, advised or is going to advise Tamil Nadu Government to create such a facility, and also whether Central Government will, in time, come to their help-financially as well as in other ways.

**KUMARI SAROJ KHAPARDE :** In April 1981, we had received a proposal from Tamil Nadu Government for the formation of a separate Council of Research for Siddha. The matter was considered in the Ministry. Tamil Nadu Government was informed that Government of India did not consider it expedient or justified to form a separate Research Council for Siddha, for the time being. However, it is assured that whenever Government of India feels that the time is ripe for the setting up of such a Council, that proposal would be considered.

We have not yet taken a decision in the matter. This is being examined.

**SHRI K. RAMAMURTHY :** My apprehension has been proved correct. This is being held up for the last six years. I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether they feel it necessary to create such a Council or not. When the time be ripe?

**MR. SPEAKER :** You first illuminate the House what is the Siddha System?

**THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT AND MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI P. V. NARASIMHA RAO) :** When the time comes I will take the member into confidence. In this Plan, we did not hope to get any fund for it. *(Interruption)*

**MR. SPEAKER :** Please illuminate on the Siddha System. That is what they want to know.

**SHRI P. V. NARASIMHA RAO :** Siddha is an indigenous system which is prevalent in South India in general and in Particular in Tamilnadu. It is a variation of the Ayurveda System, but it has its own speciality.

**SHRI G.G. SWELL :** What about scanners?

**SHRI P.V. NARASIMHA RAO :** The hon. member has joined both in the same question; that is now it has come in. I have no other alternative but to answer it in the order in which it has come. The scanner has nothing to do with the other part of the Question.

**MR. SPEAKER :** International marriage.

**SHRI P.V. NARASIMHA RAO :** (a) is a separate question; (b) and (c) are entirely different. But since the member chose to ask them together and the office chose to put them together, I have to choose to answer them together.

**MR. SPEAKER :** You cannot put them as under!

**SHRI P.V. NARASIMHA RAO :** I am of the firm view that this Siddha System has

been found to be very useful; it is not a simple system for a particular State; it is a national system as much as Ayurveda is, as much as Homoeopathy is, as much as any other system is. The point is that it has not received the encouragement that it deserves just like other Indian system so far. We are placing a great emphasis on the Indian system now. I am quite sure that in the next plan it will be possible to have some kind of a nexus; not that institutions are not there; already 12 of them are functioning, but there has to be a national institute, some prestigious institute in each system and therefore in Siddha also, we are of that view; but, at the moment, there is no point in making a commitment because we do not have any provision at all; in fact, the provision originally made in the Seventh Plan has been cut; that is why we have not made a commitment. But we are of the view...

*[Translation]*

**MR. SPEAKER :** You may be aware that people in the foreign countries are selling things in the name of herbal medicines and they are not allowing our medicines to be imported there. We must look into this. They are taking away from us our own system.

*[English]*

We must give an impetus to our own system. We must be proud of what they are taking from us.

*[Translation]*

**SHRI P.V. NARASIMHA RAO :** We are making efforts. There are selling it in large quantities which are actually very inexpensive. It is the same which we call 'Ashwagandha'. It has become popular there while we have forgotten it. It is important to deliberate over it.

**MR. SPEAKER :** You are still on that issue.

**SHRI P.V. NARASIMHA RAO :** We are making efforts. They are taking from us, we are taking from them.

**MR. SPEAKER :** You send from here.

[English]

**SHRI K. RAMAMURTHY :** My second question is about the scanners. Now most of the diseases are to be scanned. Very few of the private hospitals which are possessing CT scanners are charging exorbitantly like Rs. 10,000 Rs. 12,000, Rs. 15,000 or something like that the poor people cannot afford to pay such huge sum. Is it not necessary that our general hospitals should possess these CT scanners; if so, if it is not possible to get them bilaterally on aid from other countries, can't we try to manufacture the same CT scanners in our country; if so, whether any initiative has been taken in that direction?

**SHRI P.V. NARASIMHA RAO :** The scanners are very sophisticated instruments. We are trying to get about 10 of them from Japan; we have written to them; we have requested them; we have not yet heard from them. But in order to manufacture them within the country, I am not sure, we have the infrastructure right now, but it can always be considered. I know that they are being imported by some gentleman in a C.K.D. condition and put together and sold here. All this will take some time. But I have no doubt that this would also be available from whatever source or whatever manner in the country we can get.

[Translation]

**DR. CHANDRA SHEKHAR TRIPATHI :** Mr. Speaker, Sir, it is well-known that due to the lack of scanning facilities, lakhs of people are dying in the country. Is it not true that India has signed an agreement for several crores of rupees on generous terms for importing sophisticated machines and instruments for our hospitals? Will the hon. Minister inform the House whether such an agreement has been signed and which sophisticated instruments would be imported by it? Will Scanners be imported as well and in which hospitals will they be placed?

**KUMARI SAROJ KHAPARDE :** As the hon. Minister has stated in his reply that we had written recently to Japan for 10 scanners and 4 scanners have been received

a few days back. The hospitals where those have been installed are as under :

1. K.G. Medical College, Lucknow.
2. Post Graduate Institute of Medical Education and Research, Chandigarh.
3. Rotary Cancer Hospital of All India Institute of Medical Science, New Delhi.
4. Cancer Institute, Adyar, Madras.

As and when we get the scanners we will be installing them in various hospitals.

**SHRI GIRDHARI LAL VYAS :** When would they be placed in the rest of the areas?

**KUMARI SAROJ KHAPARDE :** Wherever there are demands, these are being considered.

**SHRI GIRDHARI LAL VYAS :** One scanner must be installed in Rajasthan.

[English]

**SHRI ATAUR RAHMAN :** Mr. Speaker, Sir, it is good to know that ten scanners are coming into our country. But as you know, Assam...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

**KUMARI SAROJ KHAPARDE :** We have asked for 10 scanners but we have been given only 4. The 4 scanners have been installed at 4 places.

**SHRI ATAUR RAHMAN :** When would the other 6 scanners come?

**KUMARI SAROJ KHAPARDE :** Whenever they arrive, they would be installed.

[English]

**SHRI ATAUR RAHMAN :** I just wanted to ask a very small question. The

North-Eastern region of the country...  
(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : You ask a bigger one also.

SHRI ATAUR RAHMAN : The North-Eastern Region of the country has been neglected for years and years, and people from the North-Eastern region are not having adequate medical facilities, people are going to Vellore, some people are going to Madras and some people are coming to Delhi. I want to know whether the hon. Minister would place a scanner in the North-Eastern region for the benefit of the people of that region.

SHRI P.V. NARASIMHA RAO : We have demands from everywhere, except that we do not have the offers made as yet. We have made a request. We expect ten, when they come. We asked for ten, we may get only five. We really do not know. All these will be considered. We really do not know how many we are getting, or if we are getting them at all. If we are not getting what is to be done as an alternative? These matters are bound up with unpredictable things. Some time will be needed to take a final decision.

[Translation]

SHRI K.D. SULTANPURI : I want to know whether the scanners which have been imported will be distributed among all States?

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Sultanpuri has submitted that there must be equal distribution; socialism should be there.

[English]

SHRI P.V. NARASIMHA RAO : At the moment we have asked for ten. If the idea is to distribute ten scanners among 23 States, it may not be possible.

[Translation]

SHRI K.D. SULTANPURI : What I mean is that efforts should be made to make this facility available in every State.

SHRI D.L. BAITHA : The scanner installed recently in All India Institute of

Medical Sciences is often out of order and the people have to go outside for scanning. I want to know whether the situation would be improved?

SHRI P.V. NARASIMHA RAO : It does not remain out of order. In fact, scanning facilities are available free of cost here whereas outside, more than Rs. 10 thousand are charged.

[English]

DR. DATTA SAMANT : I do not know why they are not easily available. In Bombay seven to eight private doctors have got them. If they could get them, what is the difficulty in the Government getting them? Why should the Government try only from Japan? They must get them immediately because when there are so many accidents, brain tumours and others it is needed now-a-days. It is all advanced technology in the other countries. We should not be late. You may consider getting them. What is the cost of this? It is not only from Japan but you can get these from the United Kingdom and Russia and other countries. They are already available with private doctors.

MR. SPEAKER : You mean, we should not import old things!

SHRI P.V. NARASIMHA RAO : The cost, as far as I know, is about Rs. 60 lakhs each one. May be it is becoming less costly because more sophisticated things are being substituted for C.T. scanners. But that is a matter which needs to be considered. In fact, instead of CT scanners, now NMRs are being asked for—nuclear thing which we have one in Delhi and the other one has been asked for Madras. We do not have it at the moment. We are trying for it. So these things are a continuous programme of greater and greater sophistication. But we have to draw the line somewhere and say that this is what we would have for the next five or ten years and then see that all these are supplied to the hospitals in the country. We have asked for ten. But it does not mean that we will stop at ten. We are also considering the possibility of obtaining them otherwise. At the moment, it is not possible to do it on a large scale because it is a costly matter. And what priority should be given

to a particular equipment needs to be examined on the overall considerations of what we have and how much we can afford. So far as distribution within the country is concerned, we will certainly see that there is no over-concentration in one area and nothing at all in another. That kind of thing will not be allowed.

[Translation]

SHRI GIRDHARI LAL VYAS : Mr. Speaker, Sir, is it costlier than human life that you are unable to supply it ?

[English]

### Own Your Wagon Scheme

\*228. SHRI H.N. NANJE GOWDA† :  
SHRI G.S. BASAVA RAJU :

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Railways have floated an 'own your wagon scheme' especially for the oil and cement sectors;

(b) whether the Railways propose to give tariff concessions to those who own wagons for transportation; and

(c) whether the scheme has been accepted by the oil and cement sectors; if so, the details thereof and to what extent this is likely to reduce the burden on the Railways ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA) : (a) A new scheme of "Own your wagons" was formulated in 1985 for all major users of covered and open bogie wagons. It is of interest to the cement industry, but not to the oil industry. However, it has been separately proposed that in future oil companies should fully own the LPG tank wagons.

(b) In the arrangements envisaged under this scheme, a suitable compensation is to be given to the owners of the wagons either through a rebate in freight or otherwise.

(c) One cement factory has evinced interest in the new scheme, but no wagon

has so far been procured under this scheme. It is too early to assess the relief.

SHRI H.N. NANJE GOWDA : Has the Government appointed any committee to examine the scheme, because whenever we ask for something, we are told that there is a resource constraint? That is why, I am asking whether a committee was appointed to examine this 'Own your wagon' scheme; if so, whether it has submitted the report and whether one of the recommendations of the Committee is to make the consumers bear the cost of these wagons.

SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA : Government has not appointed any committee to go into the scheme. This is being internally decided by the Railway Ministry within the Railway Board. And there is a group of officers who are looking into this aspect of the matter.

SHRI H.N. NANJE GOWDA : What was the total demand of wagons during the last two years and to what extent the shortage was felt? What was the total production of wagons during the last two years ?

SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA : We have to relate our requirement of wagons to the targets fixed by the Planning Commission for movement of freight. We are expected to move approximately 340 million tonnes by the terminal year of the Seventh Plan. For that our requirement of wagons is greater than what we are going to procure because of constraints of resources that we are facing. And it is because of this that we are looking to other avenues like 'Own your wagon' or 'wagon leasing' to try and increase our total procurement and total fleet of wagons at our disposal. In the year 1985-86, the total number of wagons procured was 12,500. We are hoping to procure in the current year about 20,000 wagons. And in the forthcoming financial year we are expected to procure 19,000 wagons.

SHRI DIGVIJAY SINH : Sir, salt is a basic commodity for sustenance and the whole salt industry in the country is tottering because of the cost of transportation from the seacoast to the hinterland. Would the Ministry consider including salt also in this scheme ?