

MR. SPEAKER: At certain times, there are certain things, you see. I wanted to impress upon you, what it means to have good relations with friends. Now you understand and you realise it.

SHRI ATATUR RAHMAN: We can have more Deputy-Speakers.

MR. SPEAKER: So, you have taken a hint. All right.

The delegation arrived Delhi on Sunday 27th March, 1988. They are now seated in the Special Box. We wish them a happy and fruitful stay in our country. We also convey our warm greetings and very best wishes to Her Majesty the Queen, the Prime Minister, the Danish Parliament, the Government and the friendly people of Denmark.

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

{English}

Foot and Mouth Disease among Cattle

*471. SHRI SITARAM J. GAVALI:
SHRI M. RAGHUMA REDDY:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether cross-bred and high-yielding variety variety of cows, buffaloes and other domestic animals are more prone to foot and mouth disease, resulting in the entire farmers community losing more than 500 crore rupees each year;

(b) whether any study was carried out to identify the virus causing foot and mouth disease and the develop better vaccine against F.M.D. to suit the Indian conditions;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the measures taken to contain the disease and to save the farmers from the loss?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHYAM LAL YADAV): (a) to (d). A Statement is given below.

STATEMENT

(a) Whereas exotic and cross-bred cattle are more prone to foot and mouth disease (FMD), indigenous cattle, buffaloes and other domestic animals are less susceptible to it. As per one estimate, the annual economic loss due to this disease is Rs. 510 crores.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Studies on FMD virus typing are being carried out in India since 1943. Based on analysis of samples collected from sick animals, the causative virus types have been identified as O, A, C and Asia-1. As a result of such studies, quadrivalent and monovalent vaccines incorporating these virus types are being manufactured and used in the country.

(d) Under a centrally sponsored scheme, 50% subsidised vaccine is arranged for the benefit of small and marginal farmers and agricultural labourers for protecting their exotic, cross-bred and highly valuable indigenous cattle, buffaloes and sheep against FMD. Free mass vaccination is also arranged under Disease Free Zone programme in four southernmost districts of the country and as a FMD Pilot project in 15 districts located in Tamil Nadu, Karnataka and Kerala with Nilgiris at the centre.

SHRI M. RAGHUMA REDDY: Mr. Speaker, Sir, this disease is very much there

in India since 1943. Studies are going on since 1943. But no fruitful results have come. May I know from the hon. Minister what steps the Government has taken to eradicate this disease from our country? (*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: Reddy Saheb, today the questions are all mostly regarding Agriculture Ministry and Dairy Department, so that we have got the experts here...

SHRI M. RAGHUMA REDDY: How many research institutes are established in India to take up this research?

SHRI SHYAM LAL YADAV: I think the hon. Member has not been correctly informed. It is not that the cases are increasing but over a period the cases are going down. In the year, 1975 the cases were about 2,76,209 and deaths were 709.

In 1980, the cases were 1,92,116 and deaths were 1,016.

In the years 1985-87 the average cases have come down to 98,934 and deaths only 425.

So, effective control is being done. We have been particularly taking up for the first time the districts in the Southern Zone. 15 districts nearabout Nilgiri and three districts in Kerala and one more in Tamil Nadu have been taken up so that this disease is eliminated and a very ambitious scheme has been drawn up. In the Seventh Five Year Plan, about Rs. 3.5 crores is spent from the Centre and an equal amount is being spent from the State. For the disease-free zone in the Seventh Plan, Rs. 2 crore is provided in the Central sector and the same amount in the State sector. It will mean about Rs. 11 crores has been provided for eradication of these diseases.

SHRI M. RAGHUMA REDDY: Research institutions for vaccine are available

in the Southern States except in Andhra Pradesh. Three States are mentioned in his reply, Karnataka, Kerala and Tamilnadu. What about Andhra Pradesh? Why the fourth State of the Southern region has been eliminated from the List? I want to know whether there is any proposal to establish a Research Institute for the development of this vaccine in Andhra Pradesh.

SHRI SHYAM LAL YADAV: There is no reason for excluding Andhra Pradesh. But only because these places were on the Southern part, it was decided "Let us start from that side first," and slowly we go up to the other areas.

The second reason was that some meat and other things were exported from the ports. Therefore, those areas were to be made free first. That is why it has been done and the Centres that are looking into the disease and finding its virus are all over the country. There is no such problem to exclude Andhra Pradesh.

SHRI M. RAGHUMA REDDY: Is there any proposal to establish a Research Institute in Andhra Pradesh? Why only Andhra Pradesh is excluded?

SHRI SHYAM LAL YADAV: As I said, under the Centrally-sponsored scheme we give advance up to 50% from the Centre and 50% is from the State. That Scheme includes Andhra Pradesh also.

SHRI MADAN PANDEY: In Northern India also, in the rural areas, this type of disease, overtakes the animals off and on and on a large scale. In view of this fact, will the hon. Minister please state whether in Northern India also, some type of scheme is undertaken to give relief to the rural areas and the animals?

The second supplementary is it is a type of special disease among animals. Will the

hon. Minister please depute some scientists to find out some vaccine or something of this type so that preventive measures can be taken for this also?

MR. SPEAKER: Only one question can be answered, either one.

SHRI SHYAM LAL YADAV: It is a contagious disease. There is no doubt. But it has been known in the country and people have been treating it traditionally in their own way. The exotic animals are most prone to this disease. It is not so fatal in other cases.

I have stated that as far as this scheme is concerned, in the Seventh Plan we are providing Rs. 11 crores. It covers the Northern States also. It is not like this that only the Southern States are covered. The vaccine is there. It is a costlier one, no doubt. The cost per dose is Rs. 2.50 to Rs. 3/-. But this scheme is also being provided. Some help is also given to the small-farmers, marginal-farmers and to the labourers who get these cows and other animals under the IRDP scheme and the SLBP scheme. They are also helped in that way.

SHRI P. KOLANDAIVELU: Sir, cattle are said to be the wealth of the farmers. But actually the farmers are suffering because of the drought prevailing all over India and no fodder is available for the cattle. Proper fodder is not available to the cattle. Foot and mouth diseases are quite normal in most of the cattle. In Tamil Nadu, there is a veterinary College, which is a century old one, which is attached to the Agricultural University of Coimbatore. They have got a Genetics Department and that Genetics Department is also old more than 80 years. They are actually making a research and finding out the proper vaccine for the foot and mouth disease. My question is: Can any research Department be formed in Tamil Nadu? Why I am asking is because we have got the oldest University and also the oldest veteri-

nary college. Another thing is about cow slaughter. Cow-slaughter is quite normal now-a-days. This is so because of the prevailing drought conditions and also they are getting more income by cow-slaughter. That is why cow-slaughter and cattle slaughter is being done in almost all places. Therefore, I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether the Government of India would come forward to ban cow-slaughter. Sir, some sanctity is attached to cows. We believe cows are equal to God.

MR. SPEAKER: Kolandaivelu-ji, your question might be pertinent. But this is out of the scope for this question.

SHRI P. KOLANDAIVELU: He can recommend to the concerned Ministry. He has to protect the cattle. The first part of my supplementary is with regard to the research wing. Can a research wing be formed in Tamil Nadu?

MR. SPEAKER: Yadav-ji, please take into consideration his suggestion.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER. He will take into consideration your suggestion.

(Interruptions)

SHRI P. KOLANDAIVELU: I asked whether a research wing can be formed. Let him answer my question. Let it not go unanswered.

SHRI SHYAM LAL YADAV: Sir, research work is already there and we have found out the virus. It is a natural phenomena that this virus goes on changing. In that way, we have already found out the virus. There is no problem with that thing. We have sufficient installed capacity for manufacturing the vaccine that is required. We have got the

capacity. In toto, 467 lakh doses can be manufactured. But, at present, we are able to use only 155 lakh doses. So, that is there. There is no dearth of the research work or facility. The facilities are available in the country.

(Interruptions)

SHRI SOMNATH RATH: Sir, I would like to know from the hon. Minister one thing. Since the transport of the vaccine from one State to another State takes long time, it loses its efficacy also. Many animals have been affected by this disease in Orissa. As such, will the hon. Minister see to it that a Centre is situated in Orissa, more so in the Veterinary College of the Agricultural University of Orissa?

SHRI SHYAM LAL YADAV: Sir, I have already submitted that there are four units which are producing this vaccine in the country. The total capacity is 467 lakh doses and the consumption is 155 lakh doses. Therefore, at present, there is no need for expanding the capacity. The capacity is already there. Secondly, my hon. friend has stated about Orissa. The disease is there. But there are other traditional methods by which the animals are treated. There is no problem for that.

[Translation]

Construction of Godowns in Hill Districts of Uttar Pradesh

*475. SHRI HARISH RAWAT: Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether his Ministry had formulated any scheme to create more foodgrain storage facilities in hill districts of the country;

(b) if so, whether such godowns were to be constructed under this scheme in Almora

and Pithoragarh districts of Uttar Pradesh;

(c) if so, the reasons for delay;

(d) whether these godowns would be constructed during the current year; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI D.L. BAITHA): (a) to (e). A statement is given below.

STATEMENT

(a) The Ministry has formulated proposals to create additional foodgrain storage facilities in the hill districts of Uttar Pradesh, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu & Kashmir and the North-Eastern Region.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) to (e). Difficulty in getting suitable sites and ban on new starts during the current year were the main constraints in taking up construction at Pithoragarh and Almora. At Pithoragarh the land has now been arranged and ban on new starts has also since been relaxed for construction by the Food Corporation of India. This capacity is likely to be completed by the end of Seventh Five Year Plan. At Almora, Uttar Pradesh State Warehousing Corporation has taken up construction which is likely to be completed during 1988.

SHRI HARISH RAWAT: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the storage of food-grains is a great problem for us. I want to know from the hon. Minister how much storage facility is proposed to be created in the Seventh Five Year Plan, particularly the special provisions that are to be made in respect of remote areas?

SHRI D.L. BAITHA: There is a proposal to augment the storage capacity to 80,000