

**SHRI Z.R. ANSARI:** I agree that there has been large scale deforestation and that is why the Government is taking remedial measures to check this denudation. We want to enact a law which would provide deterrent punishment for those who indulge in such activities. The only solution to this problem is to bring a comprehensive law at the earliest which may replace the Act of 1927.

[English]

#### Deaths Due to Undiagnosed Disease

\*928. **SHRI V. KRISHNA RAO†:**  
**SHRI NARSING**  
**SURYAVANSI:**

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the attention of Government has been drawn to a report captioned 'Unknown disease claims 16 lives' appearing in the Deccan Herald dated the 26th March, 1989;

(b) if so, whether similar reports have been received from other parts of the country;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the steps taken to contain the spread of this disease?

**THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (KUMARI SAROJ KHAPARDE):** (a) to (d). A Statement is given below.

#### STATEMENT

The Government has seen the news item appeared in the Deccan Herald dated 26th March, 1989 captioned 'unknown disease claims 16 lives'.

On receipt of information of outbreak of mysterious disease from Bihar, teams from National Institute of Communicable Diseases were deputed to visit the affected areas. The disease was diagnosed as Meningococcal meningitis sero-group A. During 1989, seven States/Union Territories viz. Bihar, Orissa, Andhra Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Gujarat, Maharashtra, and Delhi have reported cases of Meningococcal meningitis as well as deaths. The number of cases and deaths are as under:—

<i>State</i>	<i>Cases</i>	<i>Deaths</i>
Bihar	NA	263 (upto 28.4.89)
Orissa	2951	344 (upto 2.4.89)
Andhra Pradesh	792	136 (23.12.88 to 31.3.1989)
Madhya Pradesh	1620	158 (upto 3.4.1989)
Gujarat	586	102 (upto 3.4.89)
Maharashtra	584	109 (upto 4.3.89)
Delhi	329	58

The Control measures for Meningococcal meningitis consist of the following:—

— early reporting of cases by para medical health personnel so that all

suspected cases are treated in hospitals;

— constituting medical teams to visit the affected areas to detect and

diagnose cases;

- treatment of patients by providing suitable drugs viz. Crystalline Benzyl Penicillin and Chloramphenicol;
- vaccination of medical and para medical personnel who attend patients in hospitals and casualty department;
- providing protection to persons who may come into contact with patients by giving them sulphadiazine.

SHRI V. KRISHNA RAO: Sir, nearly about 1200 deaths have occurred in Bihar, Orissa, Andhra Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Gujarat, Maharashtra and Delhi due to an unknown disease. May I know from the Government, which is that unknown disease; how it has come; where it has come; whether it has come from our country or from any other foreign country; and have you made any research in this behalf?

KUMARI SAROJ KHAPARDE: Sir, research as such, we have not done. But various States have reported, as the hon. Member has just now mentioned, States like M.P. Orissa, Bihar and Delhi, there are various reasons and because of those reasons this particular disease called 'meningitis' is found in these particular States.

SHRI V. KRISHNA RAO: Has the Government taken any precautionary measures? Has the Government undertaken any programme for eradication of this disease?

KUMARI SAROJ KHAPARDE: Sir, it is very difficult to say about the eradication of meningitis from the country. But the Government is very much keen to take certain preventive steps to control this particular disease called 'meningitis' in the country.

Sir, emphasis must be placed on the careful surveillance including care reporting and laboratory surveillance. We always try

to educate the people about this disease. We have a very well planned health education programme, which will go a long way in preventing the occurrence of cases and particularly deaths due to meningitis. The main objective of this programme is to inform and educate the target population regarding meningitis, its signs and symptoms, and action to be taken when a person shows the symptoms of disease, preventive measures.

DR. V. VENKATESH: Sir, every year, there are deadly diseases in this country, particularly in my State Karnataka, KFD disease, i.e. Kashanore Forest Disease in Malnad area, where there are more rains. On the other side in my constituency, Kolar, thousands of people are dying because of Japanese Encephalitis every year, and also thousands of people have become physically and mentally disabled in my constituency, and every year they are adding up to the number. Time and again I have been asking the Government to find out the solution. And they had said in the last year that they were going to import some vaccines and besides, they were going to manufacture some vaccines. But so far, they have not done anything in this regard. So, I want to ask two important and simple questions. Are the Government going to manufacture vaccines? I want a categorical reply from the Minister. Secondly, every year physically and mentally disabled persons are adding up in my constituency. I would like to know whether the Government of India is going to take certain welfare measures because the future of the society is involved.

KUMARI SAROJ KHAPARDE: The hon. Member has asked me about the production of the vaccine in the country. I would like to mention it here in the House that the vaccine for meningitis is not produced in our country. It has to be imported from outside the country. Primarily, vaccination is recommended for medical as well as para medical personnel and attendants of the patients.

DR. V. VENKATESH: She has not understood my question.

**KUMARI SAROJ KHAPARDE:** I understood your question and I am coming to the point. Please have some patience.

As I was talking about the vaccine, I would like to mention here that Meningococcal meningitis the vaccine, is not manufactured in the country. It takes time to develop protective immunity after vaccination. Considering the above, mass vaccination is not recommended due to its limited role in this particular disease and this decision was taken by an expert committee which met on 24.3.1988.

**DR. V. VENKATESH:** She has not followed my question. I am asking about Kashanore Forest Disease and Japanese Encephalitis. It is not connected with meningococcal at all.

**KUMARI SAROJ KHAPARDE:** I think I did not hear that part of the question. (*Interruptions*)

**DR. V. VENKATESH:** These are two deadly diseases. (*Interruptions*) I feel very sorry about it.

**KUMARI SAROJ KHAPARDE:** You need not feel sorry. You may give me a separate notice for this question and if there is anything, I will let you know.

**DR. V. VENKATESH:** These are two deadly diseases in that area and this is one of them. (*Interruptions*)

**DR. A. KALANIDHI:** It is very unfortunate that the hon. Minister has mentioned that meningitis is undiagnosed. Meningism can be undiagnosed but meningitis cannot be undiagnosed. There are cases, bacterial and viral, which can be easily detected. If a small lumbar puncture is done and the cerebro spinal fluid is taken, you can examine the cause to have a diagnosis. I think the Minister is insulting the doctors. I would like to say that with the advent of electron microscope everything is possible now and it has become very easy for the diagnosis. The hon. Minister is giving a wrong diagnosis!

Meningism is undiagnosed whereas meningitis is diagnosed.

**KUMARI SAROJ KHAPARDE:** I do not know about the hon. member's ideas. He must be a technical person whereas I am not a technical person. I do not mean that meningitis is undiagnosed or that it is an undiagnosed disease. If by any chance it is wrongly heard, I am sorry for that. It is very much diagnosed by the doctors. (*Interruptions*)

**DR. A. KALANIDHI:** I know that meningitis is a diagnosed disease but meningism is not diagnosed.

**KUMARI SAROJ KHAPARDE:** I am not a technical person. It is very difficult for me to answer.

**SHRI HARISH RAWAT:** Minister is not supposed to be a technical person.

**KUMARI SAROJ KHAPARDE:** I would like to inform the hon. member that during the year 1989 information about the outbreak of meningitis has been reported from several States, particularly Bihar. On the receipt of information and with reports appeared in the Press, the Director of Health Services, Bihar, sent a medical team. He asked the medical team to investigate the disease. It was thought that it must be due to Encephalitis. But later after some time the experts from the Ranchi Medical College and the Jamshedpur Medical College confirmed the diagnosis to be that of meningitis.

[*Translation*]

### **New Sugar Mills in Uttar Pradesh**

\*930. **SHRI HARISH RAWAT:** Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to open new sugar mills and to increase the capacity of the existing sugar mills in Uttar Pradesh during 1988-89; and

(b) if so, the details in this regard?