

14.32 hrs.

DELHI CORNEAL GRAFTING BILL
—contd.

Mr. Chairman: The House will now take up further consideration of the following motion moved by Shri Naval Prabhakar on the 25th September, 1964:—

“That the Bill to make provision with respect to the use of eyes of deceased persons for therapeutic purposes, be taken into consideration.”

Shri Naval Prabhakar is not here.

The Minister of Health (Dr. Sushila Nayar): Sir, the Delhi Corneal Grafting Bill was under discussion last time. As the hon. Mover of the Bill is not here, it will have to be disposed of one way or the other.

Mr. Chairman: Is Shri Sheo Narain, who was holding the floor, here? ... He is not here. Is there any other speaker? ... No.

The time allotted for this Bill was one hour and the time taken was 13 minutes leaving a balance of 47 minutes. As there is no other speaker. I shall call upon the hon. Minister to reply.

श्री यशपाल सिंह (कैराना) : रेप्लाई किस को दी जा रही है ? सूवर महोदय तो यहां हैं नहीं ।

श्री हुकम चंद कछवाय (देवास) : माननीय मन्त्री किस को उत्तर देंगे ? प्रस्तावक तो सदन में नहीं हैं ।

Mr. Chairman: The House is seized of it. As nobody is there to speak on it, she will reply to the debate.

Dr. Sushila Nayar: Mr. Chairman, Sir, I very much appreciate the spirit in which Shri Naval Prabhakar has

introduced this Bill. It is true that in modern times the techniques of corneal grafting have developed so that it is possible to replace the cornea of one human being with the cornea of another human being. If the cornea of people, who are killed in accidents or whose eyeball has to be removed for certain specific conditions, is clear and healthy it, can very well be grafted on to another person's eye whose cornea has become opaque and, therefore, does not allow him to see through that cornea.

But the Chief Commissioner of Delhi has already extended the Bombay Corneal Grafting Act to Delhi. The Bombay Corneal Grafting Act has been in use in Bombay and several institutions have been authorised and declared as suitable places for acting as eye banks and do the corneal grafting work. There are four institutions in Bombay itself. In Delhi also it has been declared under this notification that five institutions, namely, the All-India Institute of Medical Sciences, the Safdarjung Hospital, New Delhi, Dr. Shroff's Eye Hospital, Daryaganj, Irwin Hospital, New Delhi and the Hindurao Hospital, Delhi, are approved institutions for the purposes of this Act.

In view of this it does not seem necessary to pass the Bill that has been introduced by Shri Naval Prabhakar. He is not here and so I cannot request him to withdraw it. So, I will have to request the House to reject the Bill.

Mr. Chairman: The question is:

“That the Bill to make provision with respect to the use of eyes of deceased persons for therapeutic purposes, be taken into consideration.”

The motion was negatived.