

12.23 hrs.

**CALLING ATTENTION TO
MATTER OF URGENT PUBLIC
IMPORTANCE**

**DEATH OF 114 CHILDREN IN THE REFUGEE
CAMPS IN MADHYA PRADESH**

Shri Hem Barua (Gauhati): Sir, I call the attention of the Minister of Rehabilitation to the following matter of urgent public importance and I request that he may make a statement thereon:—

“The death of 114 children in the refugee camps in Madhya Pradesh between May and August, 1964.”

The Minister of Rehabilitation (Shri Tyagi): Out of 16 Camps for new migrants which have been set up and which are being managed by the Government of Madhya Pradesh, 3 Camps are located in the Betul district. Between the 13th of April and the 7th of June, 1964, 2,509 families consisting of 10,621 persons were accommodated in these camps. The families were sent from Mana Camp where they had lived in tents to the Betul Camps where they were put in into Bashes. Adequate arrangements for medical attention had been made. A sum of Rs. 2,52,720 had been sanctioned to the State Government for the provision of medical facilities including a Base hospital and camp dispensaries.

When the Collector of the district learnt that mortality among children in the camps had been higher than normal in the month of May, he apprised the Madhya Pradesh Director of Health Services of the situation and the Director of Health Services deputed a Specialist in children diseases to visit the Camps. The Specialist who visited the Camps early in June found that the normal vulnerability of children to

disease during the hot weather had been aggravated by the fact that they were already suffering from severe malnutrition and also because of insanitary habits and by disregard of medical advice by their parents. He also discovered that the high mortality was also due to the fact that the children in many cases had first been taken to quacks practising medicine in the Camps and were very frequently brought to the hospital when it was too late to save them. Sometimes patients were not brought to the hospital at all. For example, of 60 deaths in one Camp only 17 occurred in the hospital. It is possible that in a large number of cases the parents did not realise the serious condition of their children and medical advice was sought too late to save their lives. During the four months from May to August 1964, 114 children died in these camps. The main causes of deaths were diarrhoea with dehydration, hyperpyrexia and broncho pneumonia. As a result of the immediate steps taken by the Director of Health Services, Madhya Pradesh, the death rate which had been rather high in May and June was brought back to normal for the population in subsequent months. Among the steps taken were a strict insistence on sanitation, intensive propaganda to encourage people to bring their children to the Camp hospital, more rigorous action against the breeding of flies and special attention paid to sickly and weak children. These measures appear to have been effective. May I say that it breaks my heart to picture displaced mothers wailing over the dead bodies of their babies in their laps? My heart goes out to them in grief and sympathy.

Shri Hem Barua: May I know if the attention of the Government is drawn to a statement made by the State Agriculture Minister on the floor of the State Assembly to the effect that the deaths of 114 children were caused by insanitary conditions to which they were subjected

[Shri Hem Barua]

in transit as also before? If so, may I know the reaction of the Government to these allegations made by the State Minister on the floor of the Assembly?

Shri Tyagi: I may say for the information of the House that the camps were no doubt over-crowded. We had received notice that two special trains were to come and we had made arrangements for an adequate number of migrants who were due to come. But, instead of two, four special trains started coming and it became very difficult to manage the affairs. It was on that account that hurried arrangements had to be made. These migrants were transferred from Mana camp because it was over-crowded. I have read the statement pointed out by the hon. Member. But the conditions in the camp were not so much insanitary as the habits and the condition of the migrants themselves. They were so famished and tired in that heat that they could not know their children were ill. Further, with one vomiting the child died and there was no time to take the child to the hospital or even to report. Such were the conditions, climatic and otherwise.

श्री हुकम चन्द कछवाय (देवास) : क्या यह सही नहीं है कि तवाकैम्प में डाक्टरों की कोई व्यवस्था नहीं थी जिस के कारण भी यह गड़बड़ी हुई है? क्या यह भी सही नहीं है कि कुछ बच्चे जब मर गये तब डाक्टर वहाँ पहुँचाये गये? कितने शरणार्थियों के ऊपर एक डाक्टर की व्यवस्था वहाँ पर है?

श्री त्यागी : डाक्टर वहाँ पर थे लेकिन दिक्कत यह पड़ गई कि कुछ लोग वहाँ के कैम्प वाले मामूली हकीम वगैरह जो थे, वहाँ के क्वैक तरीके के आदमी थे,

उनको दिखाते रहे और जैसा मैंने अपने बयान में बताया है ज्यादा तर डेथ्स ऐसी हुई हैं जिन की अस्पताल वालों को खबर तक नहीं हो सकी। यानी रिपोर्ट भी नहीं की और अस्पताल भी नहीं ले गये। बैरक में ही डेथ हो गई।

श्री हुकम चन्द कछवाय : कितने शरणार्थियों पर एक डाक्टर रखा गया था ?

अध्यक्ष महोदय : माननीय सदस्य पूछते हैं कि एक-एक डाक्टर कितने-कितने शरणार्थियों के लिये था।

श्री त्यागी : हर एक कैम्प में एक एक डिस्पेन्सरी थी और वहाँ डाक्टर थे।

Shrimati Benu Chakravartty (Barackpore): How many doctors to how many refugees?

अध्यक्ष महोदय : पूरा नम्बर है आप के पास क्या? . . . शायद नहीं है।

Shri Tyagi: I will collect the information.

श्री यशपाल सिंह (कैराना) : क्या मैं जान सकता हूँ कि यह बच्चे बीमारी के जरासीम पाकिस्तान से लाये थे या हमारे देश के पुनर्वास मंत्रालय ने इतना सुन्दर इन्तजाम कर रखा था कि उस सुन्दर व्यवस्था को वे सहन नहीं कर सके?

श्री त्यागी : मैं ने अभी आप से सब कुछ अर्ज किया। आप तो शायद तानेजनी से कह रहे हैं लेकिन अगर इन्तजाम एक हजार आदमियों का हो और दस हजार आदमी आ जायें तो शायद कोई भी इतना मुकम्मल इन्तजाम नहीं कर सकता।

श्री यशपाल सिंह : मैं ने तानेजनी के हिसाब से नहीं कहा। मैं खुद छप्पर में

रहने वाला किसान हूँ, जब मैं इस हाउस में आया तो यहां की एअर कंडिशनिंग में बैठ कर मुझे आठ दिन तक ब्रुकाम रहा। मैं पूछना चाहता हूँ कि कहीं ऐसा तो नहीं हुआ कि चूँकि वे गरीब घरों से आये हुए थे और मंत्री महोदय ने इतना अच्छा इन्तजाम कर दिया जिस को वे सहन नहीं कर पाये।

श्री त्यागी : माननीय सदस्य ठीक फरमाते हैं लेकिन बीस बीस-मील पैदल सफर कर के, गर्मी के अन्दर भूखे-प्यासे वह बच्चे आये थे और दुग्धमुह बच्चे थे। वे बच्चे तो अपनी तकलीफ का भी जिक्र नहीं कर सकते थे। असल में आबहवा की वजह से और चूँकि पाकिस्तान में परेशानी थी और अपने घर-बार छोड़ कर वे आये थे, इन तमाम चीजों ने उन को इतना थका दिया था कि वे इसे सहन नहीं कर सके।

अध्यक्ष महोदय : अब हमें दुआ करनी चाहिये कि माननीय सदस्य पालियामेंट के मेम्बर बने रहें, नहीं तो कही उन पर फिर जुकाम का असर न हो जाये।

श्री बागड़ी (हिसार) : भारत में इन्सानी जिन्दगी की कोई कीमत नहीं रह गई है और इसके कारण (Interruptions)

अध्यक्ष महोदय : आप सवाल करें। किसी मेम्बर के कहने पर नाराज न हों।

श्री बागड़ी : भारत में इन्सानी जिन्दगी की कोई कीमत नजर नहीं आती। जगह-जगह पर इन्सान मरते हैं बीमारी के कारण।

अध्यक्ष महोदय : अब आप भाषण न बीजिये। सवाल पूछिये।

श्री बागड़ी : मैं सवाल पूछ रहा हूँ, लेकिन पहले उस को समझा रहा हूँ नहीं तो त्यागी जी ताना कह देंगे। 114 बच्चों की मृत्यु इस नाते से हुई कि इन्तजाम तो एक हजार आदमियों का था और आ गये दस हजार में जानना चाहता हूँ कि आखिर उन के आने की जिम्मेदारी किस की है। क्या आने वालों

की यह जिम्मेदारी है कि वह इस तरह से मरते रहें या सरकार भी कुछ जिम्मेदारी ओढ़ने के लिये तैयार है? वे लोग आये तब भी अमर तीमारदारी की बिना पर मृत्यु होती है तो सरकार उस की जिम्मेदारी ले। मैं जानना चाहता हूँ कि क्या सरकार उस जिम्मेदारी को ओढ़ने के लिये तैयार है।

श्री त्यागी : मैंने यह नहीं कहा कि इन्तजाम नहीं हो सका। मैंने अर्ज किया था कि बावजूद इस बात के कि नोटिस नहीं था और एकदम इतनी बड़ी तादाद आ गई, गवर्नमेंट ने उन का मुनासिब इन्तजाम किया। उन को टेन्ट्स की गर्मी से हटा कर मकानों के कैम्प में ले गये, इसलिये कि वे कमजोर थे। लेकिन बावजूद इस के उन की मौतें हो गईं। इसलिये कहा था, इसलिये नहीं कहा था कि इन्तजाम नहीं हो सका।

श्रीमती मिनीमाता (बालोदा बाजार) : मैं माना कैम्प

अध्यक्ष महोदय : मैं ने आप को नहीं बुलाया।

Shri Daji (Indore) : Is it a fact that, firstly, anti-cholera injections were not available in the dispensary attached to that camp; secondly, sulpha drugs were not there; thirdly, one doctor looked after three camps and was on travel; fourthly, only compounders were available; fifthly, sewage was bogged and stinking; sixthly, houses were leaking and water entered in the houses so that children had to sleep inside the room full of water; and lastly, all this was pointed out repeatedly to the authorities there but neither the State Government nor your Department looked into the matter? I have given you a personal eye-portrait of the camp there.

श्री त्यागी : मुझे इस की इत्तला नहीं है कि पानी भरा था। लेकिन मैं यह अर्ज करना चाहता हूँ कि वहां पर कालेरा की वजह से डैप्स नहीं हुई हैं।

Shri Daji: One doctor for three camps.

श्री त्यागी : मैं ने उन बीमारियों का जिक्र कर दिया है। कालेरा के कारण बच्चों की मौतें नहीं हुईं।

Shri Daji: You call it diarrhoea.

Shrimati Renu Chakravarty: Sulpha-drugs were also not available.

Shri Buta Singh (Moga): Was there one doctor for three camps?

श्री जगदेव सिंह सिन्धान्ती (अज्जर) : क्या वहां पर दूध या इस तरह की दूसरी चीजों का इन्तजाम नहीं था जो कि समय पर बच्चों को दिया जा सकता और वे अकाल मृत्यु से बच जाते।

श्री त्यागी : मैं ने आप से अर्ज किया कि अक्सर मौतें एसी हो गई कि बैरकों में बच्चे बीमार हुए और उन की मौत हो गई। मरने से पहले अस्पताल में किसी ने खबर भी नहीं दी और इस तरह से होता गया। चुनाव जितने बच्चों, छोटे छोटे दुधमुंहे बच्चों की मौतें हुई हैं वह ज्यादातर बैरकों में हुई हैं, अस्पतालों में रिपोर्ट भी नहीं की गई बहुतों की।

श्री बाजी : अस्पताल वहां हैं ही नहीं।

श्री प्रकाशवीर शास्त्री : (बिजनौर) : मैं जानना चाहता हूँ कि जिन बच्चों के देहान्त हुए उन की अवस्था क्या थी, वे किस उम्र के थे।

श्री त्यागी : वह ज्यादातर दुधमुंहे बच्चे थे। ठीक उम्र तो उन की इस वक्त याद नहीं है, लेकिन बतलाया गया है कि वे ज्यादातर बेबीज थे।

श्री यु० सि० चौधरी (महेन्द्रगढ़) : इतने बच्चों के मरने के बाद भी जिस तरह से स्टेटमेंट देते हुए मंत्रालय ने इस बात को हल्के ढंग से बता दिया है उस से ऐसा मालूम पड़ता है कि सरकार सिवा इस के कि सिर्फ अपनी रूटीन पूरी कर दे, और कोई जिम्मेदारी

मानने के लिये तैयार नहीं है। मैं एक बात स्पष्ट रूप से पूछना चाहत हूँ कि जब रिहै-बिलिटेशन के लिये एक अलग मंत्रालय बना हुआ है, उस के वास्ते पूरे कैबिनेट रैंक का एक मंत्री है, तो सारी की सारी सूरत के अन्दर इस तरह का ब्यान देना कि ज्यादा रिफ्यूजी कैम्प में आ गये और इस की वजह से हम डाक्टरों का इन्तजाम नहीं कर पाये और 114 दुधमुंहे बच्चों की मृत्यु हो गई यह कहां तक उचित है। उन की हत्या किस के सिर पर है? क्या इस के बारे में सरकार कोई जांच करवाने के लिये तैयार है या नहीं?

अध्यक्ष महोदय : उन्होंने यह नहीं कहा कि इन्तजाम नहीं कर पाये। आप एसी बात न कहें।

श्री यु० सि० चौधरी : क्या सारे के सारे मामले के अन्दर सरकार जांच करवा कर सारी स्थिति को सदन में लाने के लिये तैयार है। मैं जानना चाहता हूँ कि कौन कौन इस सारी चीज के लिये जिम्मेदार है जब अलग मंत्रालय बना हुआ है।

Mr. Speaker: His question is whether it is proposed to have an enquiry made to find out the causes of deaths of such a large number.

Shri Ranga (Chittoor): Yes, Sir; we all want it.

श्री त्यागी : मैं ने अभी अर्ज किया था कि 2,52,720 रु० मध्य प्रदेश गवर्नमेंट को अस्पतालों के लिये और उन के इन्तजाम के लिये मंजूर हो चुक थे लेकिन वह इतनी जल्दी अस्पताल की बिल्डिंग वगैरह नहीं बना सके। तब जो भी बाधा थे उन छोटे बाधाओं के अन्दर जो छोटी छोटी बिल्डिंग बनाई गई थीं उन के अन्दर, अस्पतालों का इन्तजाम कर दिया गया था। हालांकि इतनी जल्दी बड़ी बिल्डिंग वगैरह नहीं बनाई

जा सकती थीं, लेकिन यह रूपय मंजूर किया गया था, दवाओं का खास इन्तजाम था ।

Shri Ranga: Will there be an enquiry to go into this matter?

श्री त्यागो मैं यह अर्ज कर रहा था कि 2,52,720 रु० इस काम के लिये मध्य प्रदेश गवर्नमेंट को मंजूर कर दिये गये थे ताकि यह कैम्पस जो हैं (Interruptions) या तो आप जवाब दे दीजिये या मुझे कड़गे दीजिये ।

अध्यक्ष महोदय: वह इम्पेसेन्ट हो रहे हैं ।

श्री त्यागो: बेतुल के जो कैम्प हैं उन के बारे में मैं हाउस की इत्तला के लिये बतलाना चाहता हूँ कि सेंट्रल गवर्नमेंट की तरफ से आठ बड़े बड़े कैम्प खुले हैं और बाकी जो 87 कैम्प के करीब हैं उन का स्टेट गवर्नमेंट अलग अलग इन्तजाम करती है । 87 camps are managed by the State Governments. Because they are spread over many States, the management there is directly that of the State Governments themselves. We give them grants. So, from that point of view I was just informing the House that a grant of Rs. 2,52,720 had already been given to the Madhya Pradesh Government for the arrangement of medical facilities in these camps. And they had done so. But the buildings could not come up so soon, and, therefore, they had made provisional arrangements in those Basha huts which were already there. And those huts were used for hospitals; the doctors were also there. I am sorry I have not got the exact number of doctors who were there; medicines were also there. As regards inoculations against cholera etc., all those inoculations were always given as a rule; as soon as the displaced persons cross the border the necessary injections are always given.

Another point which I might mention is this....

Shri Daji: We want an inquiry. This money was not utilised by the Madhya Pradesh Government. I can give you the information that the money was not utilised by the Madhya Pradesh Government.

श्री योगेन्द्र झा (मधुबनी): अध्यक्ष महोदय, मेरा व्यवस्था का प्रश्न है ।

अध्यक्ष महोदय: मैं जानता हूँ कि आपका व्यवस्था का प्रश्न है, लेकिन अभी आप बैठ जाएं ।

वह इस बात पर बार बार जोर दे रहे हैं कि क्या गवर्नमेंट इस एन्क्वायरी को इंस्टीट्यूट करने के लिए तैयार है कि इतने ज्यादा तादादा में बच्चों के मरने की क्या वजह थी और उसके बारे में कोई राय कायम की जाए । सवाल इतना है ।

श्री त्यागो: मैं यह अर्ज करना चाहता हूँ कि ये जो मौतें हुई हैं ये दस हजार की पापुलेशन में हुई हैं, एक तो यह बात वह समझ लें । (Interruptions). ये कैम्प डाइरेक्टली स्टेट गवर्नमेंट के इन्तजाम में हैं (Interruptions).

I am not yielding. I refuse to yield the floor. I must have my say.

इन कैम्पों का इन्तजाम स्टेट गवर्नमेंट के मारफ्त होता है । जब आप ने नोटिस दिया तो मैंने स्टेट गवर्नमेंट से ये तमाम इत्तलाएं मंगाईं और उनके बेसिस पर आपको जवाबत दिये । यदि आपको और कोई बात पूछनी है तो मैं राज्य सरकार से मालूम करके आपको दे दूंगा ।

श्री हुकम चन्द कछवाय : एनक्वायरी में आपकी क्या आपत्ति है ?

अध्यक्ष महोदय : आपके जवाब से बालूम हुआ कि सेंट्रल गवर्नमेंट की जिम्मेदारी नहीं है। आपको रुपया देना था वह आपने दे दिया। टेस्ट गवर्नमेंट ने इन्तजाम किया। यहां बार बार कहा जाता है कि एनक्वायरी की जाए। आपका जवाब है कि हम एनक्वायरी कैसे करें—आपने यह इतने झल्लाज में नहीं कहा लेकिन आपका यही मतलब था—टेस्ट गवर्नमेंट यह कर सकती है।

श्री त्यागी : मैं स्टेट गवर्नमेंट को इसके लिए लिख सकता हूँ कि वह एनक्वायरी करके हमको रिपोर्ट दे।

श्री हुकम चन्द कछवाय : केन्द्र द्वारा एनक्वायरी होनी चाहिए।

Shri Tyagi: I refuse to interfere with the affairs of the State.

अध्यक्ष महोदय : मेम्बर साहब जरा इस बात का खयाल करें कि इस तरह जो काम स्टेट गवर्नमेंट के जिम्मे किया जाता है उसके ऊपर अगर सेंट्रल गवर्नमेंट एनक्वायरी करे तो ठीक नहीं है। यह तो उन्हीं को करना होगा। (Interruptions). अगर टेस्ट गवर्नमेंट इससे इन्कार करेगी तो मेम्बर साहब यह सवाल उठा सकते हैं।

श्री हुकम चन्द कछवाय : यह लापरवाही कैसे हुई।

Shrimati Renu Chakravartty: On a point of order.....

Shri Ranga: May I make one submission?.....

श्री योगन्ना झा : अध्यक्ष महोदय, केन्द्रीय मिनिस्टर किस बात के लिये हैं ?

Mr. Speaker: Shri Ranga.

Shrimati Renu Chakravartty: I wanted to raise a point of order.

Mr. Speaker: I have called Shri Ranga already. Let him have his say first.

Shri Ranga: This arose out of an all-India calamity. Parliament as well as this Government have taken up this responsibility for making arrangements to look after the people who have come away from Pakistan, because we have felt it as an all-India responsibility. We placed funds also at the disposal of the Ministry. The Ministry concerned now says that they had placed those funds at the disposal of the State Governments, and, therefore, it is their responsibility. I would submit that that is not so. The State Governments were good enough to take up this responsibility on our behalf, in order to look after those people. In that process we find these calamities taking place.

Therefore, we are only suggesting that the hon. Minister should be good enough to look into the matter and to order an inquiry, in co-operation, if need be, with the concerned State Government, and not necessarily by the State Government, so that they would be able to help us at least for the future to prevent such calamities, and also to lay down what relations there should be between the State Government and the Union Government in regard to the utilisation of this money for the protection of those people.

Shrimati Renu Chakravartty: My point of order is this. The hon. Minister is trying to get out of his responsibilities by saying that all the job that he has to do is to sanction money and after that he has no further responsibilities.

As far as the Rehabilitation Ministry is concerned, we know it on very good authority for the last fifteen

years that the Centre is responsible for rehabilitation and the States have to get everything sanctioned from the Centre and then the Centre sanctions the money; and though the agency is the State, the Centre must keep an eye as to what exactly has happened and how far the schemes have come into being. The hon. Minister has no right to say to this House that it is a matter for the State, and that the Centre only sanctions the money and it is a matter for the State whether the money is utilised for building hospitals or for putting shacks without anti-biotics, without medicines for inoculations against cholera, without doctors and so on. That answer cannot be tolerated in this House.

Shri H. N. Mukerjee (Calcutta Central): Quite a large number of children have died, and that is why the House is agitated. From what the hon. Minister has said, I could gather that there was some discrepancy in regard to the communication about the number of refugees who were going to reach certain destinations. On his own admission, it has happened that a very much larger number of refugees, have arrived at a certain point causing a great deal of dislocation. Here, the Central responsibility comes in in a very direct and immediate way. It is for the Centre always to make sure of co-ordinating arrangements so that the receiving camps get to know how many people to expect; there might be a slight overlapping, but there should not be the kind of thing which Shri Tyagi has just reported.

Here, therefore, is something which *prima facie* demands an immediate inquiry without prodding by Members of Parliament. I cannot understand why with all the sympathy to which he gave pious expression, he did not think of having this kind of inquiry made at once.

That is why I submit, quite apart from the purely technical aspects of

the matter which are very important, that the Centre is responsible for rehabilitation, and Shri Tyagi should not be there if he fails in this responsibility. Therefore, I feel that children being involved, he should behave rather differently than what he has happened to behave.

Shri U. M. Trivedi (Mandsaur): I want to make it clear that the point before the House is very simple. Shri Tyagi's suggestion is that the Madhya Pradesh Government or the State Government or whosoever is concerned is an agency on behalf of the Central Government. The accusation is against that agency for having acted in a callous manner, which has resulted in the death of 114 children. Does Shri Tyagi want to suggest before the House that that agency against which the accusation has been made is the agency which will give the reply and which will hold the inquiry into this matter? Or will the enquiry be made by the Centre to find out how that agency has miserably failed to discharge the duty that has been cast upon it?

It was an essential duty on the part of the Central Government. Rehabilitation is not a subject governed by any of the entries in the State Lists. It is entirely a subject governed by the Union List, and it is the incumbent duty of the Union Government to find out how this mistake arose and how this callous attitude was adopted, and what difficulties were there. The inquiry must be made by the Central Government and it cannot be left into the hands of the State Government which has acted in this manner.

Shri Daji rose—

Mr. Speaker: Shri Daji has already had his chance.

Shri Daji: I only put a question earlier. I want to make one submission now.

Mr. Speaker: Shri Hem Barua.

Shri Hem Barua: The hon. Minister has said that the responsibility rests with the State Government because the camps are in the State. But the State Minister has said that the responsibility rests with the Central Government because these people or these children were on their way to the camps from the transit camps. So, there are two sets of different sets of opinions.

Now, the hon. Minister has said that the Central Government has sanctioned money for hospitals and all that and that is budgeted by the Central Government out of its budget. The State Government should account for the money to the Central Government, and we also came into the picture in that.

Therefore, an inquiry should be made in order to clarify the position. Whether it is the State Government's version that the Central Government is responsible for the death of 114 children that is correct or it is the Minister's version that it is the responsibility of the State that is to be relied upon has to be clarified. At the same time, money is spent by the State Government and sanctioned by the Central Government. That has also to be clarified.

Mr. Speaker: Again and again, the same thing is being repeated. Now enough has been said?

An Hon. Member: What is his reaction?

Mr. Speaker: If there is any reaction, there is no further opportunity. They must wait and see what the reaction is.

Shri Tyagi: I sincerely appreciate the sentiments expressed by my hon. friends on the other side in sympathy

with these children. Every Indian would have sympathy for them. But I am afraid that I have been misunderstood. I never said that the Central Government had no responsibility at all. What I submitted for the information of the House was that the camps were managed directly by the State Government and not directly by the Centre. I gave them the figure of directly-arranged camps, which the Centre arranges and manages that is, 8; the other camps, more than 80, are under the management of the State Governments. I had said that the funds are given by us from the Centre and we surely have all types of responsibility except that of direct administration. For that purpose, the State Governments carries out our policy and our sanctions generally. It is for that reason that they ask for grants to put up those hospitals.

As soon as these deaths started increasing, the local authority immediately deputed Dr. Powhawala by Gandhi Medical College, Indore who is a specialist in children's diseases. He has already given his report. Immediate inquiry was conducted and action was taken according to the recommendations which this doctor made to us. That was done.

If even now, my hon. friends feel, as some of my friends do, that some further investigation should be made, I do not say that I want to shirk responsibility. I will surely ask the State Government—because they themselves are equally anxious about this matter; they are not guilty of anything—to depute some officer to make an inquiry. I have no objection to that. I assure Members that I shall ask the State Government to make further inquiries.

Shri Hem Barua: Let there be a parliamentary inquiry.

Mr. Speaker: He would take note of all that has been said by hon. Members.