

the shipping business in the international market, there is a steep fall in the international prices of vessels. I have been told that tenders for acquiring new vessels for the Shipping Corporation have been submitted. Even after the tenders are closed, there is a further fall in the prices of vessels. I would like to know from the hon. Minister, whether he will consider, instead of buying the vessels, if they are available on long-term hiring charges, taking them on hire basis rather than buying them.

SHRI RAJESH PILOT : Because the Shipping industry is in recession, we would like to take advantage of this and build up our shipping industry during this period. That is why, some of the proposals which the hon. Members have made are under consideration and we have appointed a small committee under the D.G., Shipping which will look into all these aspects, keeping in view the interest of the nation. The offer which the hon. Member has mentioned, if it comes to me, I would certainly consider this, keeping in view the national interest.

**Manufacture of human Deployed Cell
Vaccines**

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***455. SHRI BRAJAMOHAN MOHANTY :**
SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL :

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

(a) the average number of deaths in the country due to rabies ;

(b) whether Government have any proposal for revamping precautionary measures and if so the details thereof ;

(c) whether human deployed cell vaccines which are the most safe for treatment of rabies, are not being manufactured in India and are being imported from West Germany and France ; and

(d) whether Government have any proposal for manufacture of human deployed cell vaccine in India and if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (KUMARI SAROJ KHAPARDE) : (a) There is no reliable data about the average number of deaths in the country due to rabies. The average number of reported deaths due to rabies as available with the Director General of Health Services varies from 600 to 700 per year. This, however, appears to be an under-estimate.

(b) The measures taken so far consist of a National Canine Rabies Control Programme under the Ministry of Agriculture and increased production of anti-rabies vaccine by the Union Government and the State Governments. In addition, the Civic bodies in urban areas also implement the Canine Rabies Control Programme under their own regulations.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) Manufacture of tissue culture rabies vaccine on a trial basis has been taken up at the Pasteur Institute of India Coonoor.

SHRI BRAJAMOHAN MOHANTY : Sir, what is the total need of the Human Deployed Cell vaccines in the country and what is the total import, I would like to know from the Minister. The human deployed cell vaccines are the most safer treatment of rabies. How much of this quantity is being imported and what is the need assessed in the country ? Has the Government of India received any demand from the States and Union Territories about their need ? What is the process of their distribution ? Or, are we supplying stocks whatever needed by the States and Union Territories ? Has it come to the notice of the Government of India that certain hospitals are always going without vaccines ?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT AND MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY

WELFARE (SHRI P.V. NARASIMHA RAO): About the vaccines, I recall that a similar question was asked and answered in this House. There are two considerations. One is the safety factor and the other which is equally important, is the cost factor. Now we are, at the moment, administering 40 million milli-litres of nervous tissue inactivated rabies vaccine and this is taken from goat. This vaccine is utilised in immunising more than 5 lakh animal bite cases every year as a post-exposure immunising agent. This is being produced in the country at the moment and we are self-sufficient in it. It is being produced at 12 production centres. The incidence of neuro paralytic accidents is associated with this vaccine. There is some risk here. But the risk is not so much as to drive us to the other vaccine which is about many times more costly than this vaccine.

The question of cost has become very important and I have informed the House that if we do not use the present vaccine until such time as we are able to produce a more effective, safer vaccine for almost the same price, we would be leaving out many of the patients, many of the persons who would be bitten by dogs. This kind of switch-over is not done over-night. On the other hand, we have now set up a pilot project for the production of tissue culture of ARV which is again a different thing, and which is almost equally safe as the vaccine which we are importing but it costs much less.

Now we expect that by 1990, we will be able to produce about one lakh doses of the vaccine and then we will have to see as a result of the pilot project, whether we can afford to go in for a larger dose or larger production of this vaccine. But the final and ultimate solution is to see that the rabies comes down rather than having a competition in production of vaccines while the rabies goes and the vaccine goes up. The process which we would like to initiate is a break of this vicious circle. We will have to take other measures. For instance, under the Agriculture Ministry they have a programme. The programme is good in itself. But probably they have not been

able to find funds for it to the extent necessary. So we will have to talk with the Agriculture Ministry. We do not want to duplicate the effort. But we would like to talk to them. We would initiate a discussion with them and see how this vicious circle can be broken.

SHRI BRAJAMOHAN MOHANTY: The hon. Minister has said altogether a different story. What is the total import of vaccines from West Germany and the process of distribution in Delhi?

SHRI P.V. NARASIMHA RAO: Around 2,00,000 doses were released in the country during 1984 and this was what was imported.

About the supply, there is a method of supplying this vaccine. This is a regular method. The DGHS looks after that. If the hon. Member wants all the details of the method, I can give him. But generally all the vaccines, medicines etc whatever are supplied from here, follow a pattern which is well set.

SHRI BRAJAMOHAN MOHANTY: Government admits that there is no reliable data. May I know whether any steps are taken to have accurate data of deaths due to rabies and whether any coordination is there in between the programme undertaken by the civic body for implementing the rabies control programme and whether there is any coordination anywhere at the Government of India level, State Government level or urban level.

SHRI P.V. NARASIMHA RAO: About statistics and data, the availability of data, this has been our difficulty throughout. We have several sources, the sources from which the Director General of Health Services gets the information. According to that information, there are only 600-700 deaths per year. We feel, after having verified from some other sources, in fact, I was looking into it myself personally, and I am convinced that this figure is a gross underestimate. It cannot be less than ten thousand in any case. But I cannot give

you any more accurate figure except to say that this is a gross under-estimate. We have been trying to get reliable figures; but we have not been able to do so because from the State Governments whatever figures come, are not found to be as accurate as one would wish them to be. From the hospital sources and other sources whatever figures come, they are of a different magnitude. So, it has not been possible for us to get the accurate figures, except figures of attack and cure from the hospitals. There are cases where hospital do not come into the picture at all. So, whenever a question like this arises, I am rather helpless in the matter because I am not able to cite the accurate figures.

SHRI BRAJAMOHAN MOHANTY : I would like to know whether there is a coordination programme.

SHRI P.V. NARASIMHA RAO : That is what I was submitting Sir. There is already a programme which is being implemented at the field level and the municipalities are being encouraged.

[*Translation*]

DR. CHANDRA SHEAKHAR TRIPATHI : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the hon. Minister has just now said that this matter shall be considered keeping in view the cost and safety of this vaccine. However, according to my information refrigeration facility is not available in the Tehsil headquarters in which the Government has made arrangements for its storage and that is why its effectiveness gets decreased to a great extent. Again, cold boxes are not available at the airport for sending them from Delhi into the interior.

[*English*]

The efficiency of the drug is actually decreasing and that becomes inefficient even after the quantity level being upto the demand. Therefore, I would like to know from the Hon. Minister what is going to be done in this regard, so that the efficiency of the drug may be maintained and restored.

SHRI P.V. NARASIMHA RAO : The programme as it is implemented by the Agriculture Ministry has all these things built into it. 30 Rabies Control Units have been set up in different states and union territories of the country. Each unit is provided with a diesel van, a refrigerator and storing vaccine and equipment for catching stray dogs. If this is not adequate, we will have to look into it. I feel this is not adequate, because from the amount they have been able to spend over the years for this programme it appears to me that this is inadequate. We will have to coordinate with them, we will have to find out that at least in the next Plan this is stepped up.

DR. KRUPASINDHU BHOI : The Hon. Minister has dealt this question in a very intelligent manner. So, the actual question has been diverted. There are three stages, prevention, quarantine period and paroxysm of the disease. (*Interruptions*). So, for prevention and quarantine period the anti-rabies vaccine which you are going to import or produce will solve the problem. I would like to know whether the Minister has got the information whether in the global phenomenon there is any medicine which has been invented. I would also like to know, for curative purposes of the paroxysm of the disease whether the Minister is aware that under his jurisdiction an institute which has spent more than one crore of rupees to invent a medicine or invent a process, a parameter to cure the disease, is there. If it is so, what is the parameter and in which Institute this research is going on?

SHRI P.V. NARASIMHA RAO : Sir, so far as the curative aspect is concerned, I do not have any information in regard to any reliable cure having been discovered or made or manufactured. Efforts are going on; but as far as I know, I have been informed yesterday that these efforts have not come to a stage where we can really draw any final conclusions. Probably, after a few years there will be a breakthrough. But right now we have to make do with vaccines.

[*Translation*]

SHRI V. TULSIRAM : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the hon. Minister has said that the medicines which used to be imported earlier are now being manufactured in the country itself and this is a heartening feature. But certain diseases are occurring as a result of dog-bite. The number of stray dogs is also increasing every day which create nuisance in the markets etc. I would like to know whether in view of the increasing number of dogs, the hon. Minister is considering limiting the number of dogs as well ?

SHRI P.V. NARASIMHA RAO : I think first we should check the cases of dog bites; I have not yet thought of limiting the number of dogs.

MR. SPEAKER : You can take a piece of advice from Shri Tulsiram in this regard.

[*English*]

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY : Minister should draw upon the expertise of the Member.

[*Translation*]

AN. HON. MEMBER : This work should be left to the State Governments.

SHRI BALKAVI BAIRAGI : Mr. Speaker, Sir, do you know that Shri V. Tulsiram was bitten by a dog and it was the dog which had to get anti-rabies injections? I want to bring it to the notice of Shri Narasimha Rao also.

SHRI P.V. NARASIMHA RAO : This is correct that—

[*English*]

—man bites a dog is a news.

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY : Member biting a dog will be a privilege.

SHRI P.V. NARASIMHA RAO : It is a privileged bite.

Proposal for Declaration of National Highways in Rajasthan.

*456 **SHRI VIRDHI CHANDER JAIN :** Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) the number and details of the State roads recommended by the Government of Rajasthan for declaration as National Highways ;

(b) since when these proposals are pending with the Union Government ; and

(c) the roads which have been declared as National Highways in the State during the Sixth Five Year Plan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT : (SHRI RAJESH PILOT) : (a) and (b) : The Government of Rajasthan recommended the following two State roads for being declared as National Highways during the 7th Five Year Plan :—

- (1) Beawar (on N.H. 8)-Pali-Sirohi-Kandla Port ; and
- (2). Bikaner-Nagaur-Ajmer-Kota-Shivpuri (on N.H. 3).

However, owing to meagre allocation earmarked for new National Highways during the current Plan, it has not been possible to declare them as National Highways.

(c) Road from Jaipur to Biaora, measuring about 466 kms. as an extension of N.H. No. 12.

[*Translation*]

SHRI VIRDHI CHANDER JAIN : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the hon. Minister has given a very disappointing reply. During the