

Shri Nadar passed way at Tirunelveli, Tamil Nadu, on 3 October, 1988 at the age of 73.

Shri Anant Prasad Sharma, was a member of the Third and Fifth Lok Sabha during 1962-67 and 1971-77 respectively, representing Buxur constituency of Bihar. He had also been a member of Rajya Sabha during 1968-71, 1978-83 and again from August, 1984 to 2 April, 1988.

A veteran freedom fighter and trade unionist, Shri Sharma left college studies to join the National Movement for Freedom. He was associated with several trade union organisations in various capacities. He represented Indian Labour at the International Labour Organisation at Geneva in 1956 and also at the Golden Jubilee of ILO in 1969.

An able parliamentarian, Shri Sharma served as Member of the Railway Convention Committee during the Third Lok Sabha. He was Chairman of the Committee on Petitions in 1971. Later he was inducted in the Union Council of Ministers and held several portfolios with distinction during 1974-77 and 1980-83.

A widely travelled person, Shri Sharma was the leader of the Indian Parliamentary Delegation to Thailand, Malaysia, Singapore and Indonesia. He represented India at the Anniversary Celebrations of Iraqi Revolution held at Baghdad in 1970. He was a member of the goodwill Mission to Iraq, Syria, Lebanon and Libya and was also the Indian Delegate to the Silver Jubilee Celebrations of United Nations Organisation in 1970.

He adorned the gubernatorial office and served as Governor of Punjab and west Bengal.

Shri Sharma passed away at New Delhi on 11 October, 1988 at the age of 69.

We deeply mourn the loss of these friends and I am sure the House will join me in conveying our condolences to the be-

reaved families.

The House may now stand in silence for a short while to express its sorrow.

*The Members then stood in silence for a short while*

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## ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[English]

### Setting up of Filaria Research Centre in Alleppey

\*3. SHRI VAKKOM PURUSHOTHAMAN: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to refer to the reply given on 1 August, 1988 to Unstarred Question No.774 regarding elephantiasis cases in Kerala and state;

(a) the reasons for substantial increase in the number of cases of elephantiasis reported during the last three years;

(b) whether Government have taken any new measures in the recent times to check the disease in view of the steady increase in the number of cases reported;

(c) whether a proposal is pending with Union Government for setting up a Filaria Research Centre in Alleppey, which is the most affected district in the country; and

(d) if so, the response of Union Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI MOTILAL VORA) : (a) to (d). A statement is given below:

### STATEMENT

The reasons for an increase in the number of elephantiasis cases detected are due to

(i) increased case detection facilities

in general;

(ii) increased case detection through activities of the Integrated Vector Disease Control of Indian Council of Medical Research in Shertallai in Alleppey District;

(iii) increased health education in the area, resulting in increased reporting in the clinics.

The Government have introduced a Science and Technology Mission Mode Project on mosquito control through biological and environmental measures. The results of the pilot project have been highly encouraging and indicate a possibility of reduced transmission of infection through these measures.

The proposal for establishing a Filaria Research Unit at Alleppey was received in the Indian Council of Medical Research. The strategy for filariasis control has shifted from the conventional measures to increased emphasis on biological and environmental control. The results of the pilot Vector Control Project are encouraging and the State Government should now implement this approach in all the endemic areas of the State, including Alleppey District. In addition to the Vector Control Project, the I.C.M.R. is setting up a new chemotherapy study with ivermectin at the Alleppey Medical College. The National Institute of Communicable Diseases has a filariasis research unit at Shertallai in Alleppey District which undertakes epidemiological studies and control measures. Under the National Filariasis Control Programme a Control Unit was established in Alleppey town to undertake anti-larval measures and a filaria clinic is providing facilities for diagnosis and treatment. There are, thus, adequate institutional facilities available for control as well as research activities on filariasis in Alleppey District. The Government of India, therefore, do not intend to establish another research unit on Filariasis.

**SHRI VAKKOM PURUSHOTHAMAN:**  
In answer to my question, the hon. Minister

says that the reasons for an increase in the number of elephantiasis cases detected in Kerala are the increased case detection facilities in general. It is very surprising.

In another reply to my question on 1st August 1988, the hon. Minister had replied that the cases reported in Kerala in 1985 were 2639, and 2878 in 1986, but in 1987, the number was 3832, i.e. there was an increase of more than 1,000 cases during one year. These cases are detected mainly in my constituency, viz. Alleppey; and there is an alarming situation in that district, and in that State. To my knowledge, or even to the knowledge of the State Government, there is no increase in any of the facilities for the detection of these cases during this period.

So, more and more cases being detected, means that more and more persons are infected with this disease. So, I would like to know what steps Government have taken after this alarming trend of increase in the case of elephantiasis has been detected.

**SHRI MOTI LAL VORA:** With whatever the hon. Member has said, I agree. In the years 1985-87, the number of cases has increased no doubt. But we have taken all these measures: in Alleppey, we have started four institutes. The National Institute of communicable Diseases (NICD)'s one branch of Regional Filariasis Training and Research Centre, Calicut has a unit at Shertallai. ICMR's Integrated Control Vector Unit of Pondicherry has a unit at Shertallai. ICMR proposes to commence filariasis chemotherapy in association with T.D. Medical College, Alleppey. The National Filariasis Control Programme in Alleppey alone; one Control Unit and a Filariasis Clinic.

As the hon. Member is asking about his own constituency in Kerala, there are 16 control units, one survey unit and 8 filaria clinics already in Kerala State. All these things are going on in the constituency of the hon. Member. So, we want to eradicate or control elephantiasis in this way.

**SHRI VAKKOM PURUSHOTHAMAN:**  
All these facilities were there in Kerala even

before this increase was detected. With all these facilities, there was an increase in 1987, by about 1,000 cases. But in 1986, Government have agreed, and the ICMR has even written to the local Government and the Medical College, Alleppey that there, they have decided to set up a filaria research unit in the T.D. Medical College, Alleppey. Even after that, when the cases have increased, Government have now gone back on their original decision. Government now says that they do not intend to set these up. I would like to know what is the reason for Government going back on their original decision, when the disease is spreading on a large scale, and there is an alarming situation.

**SHRI MOTI LAL VORA:** The Government is not going back, on what Government had said earlier. The hon. Member will be happy to know this. In addition to the Vector Control Project, ICMR is setting up a new chemotherapy centre to study this Ivermectin at the Alleppey medical college. Along with this, filariasis studies will be continued. So, what we have said in the past, we are going to fulfil.

I hope the hon. Member will be happy.

**SHRI THAMPAN THOMAS :** There are certain diseases, which were said to have been eradicated completely. One among them is this. There was a scheme by the Government to eradicate malaria, filaria and small pox. Now all these things are coming back, especially at this place which my friend mentioned, viz. Shertallai. That is a place where elephantiasis and filaria are there very much.

These diseases are communicated by mosquitoes. I would like to know whether you have done any investigation into it and all that. The mosquitoes are now very much on the increase. What is the method by which something is done not only in Alleppey and Kerala but even in Delhi? In the NDMC area, mosquitoes are there in great numbers and they are continuing to cause malaria. What is the scheme or what is the proposal

of the government to see that it is effectively contained ? Has the government got any scheme for that? Has anything been done on those lines?

**SHRI MOTI LAL VORA:** We are supplying to the State Governments all these drugs and the Larvicide also. If the hon. member wants to know about it, I can tell him that from 1985-88, we have made supplies to all the States whatever they needed to eradicate or to control elephantiasis. So, from our side, we are making all possible arrangement to eradicate and control this elephantiasis, Kala azar and other diseases also.

**SHRI THAMPAN THOMAS:** They are coming back.

**SHRI SOMNATH RATH:** Though the Question pertains to Kerala, I may point out that the situation in Orissa is equally alarming. What steps have been taken or are you going to take to eradicate this disease or to control this disease in Orissa?

**SHRI MOTI LAL VORA:** The Government is giving medical aid and drugs to other States. In the same way, for Orissa, we are supplying them to the State Government; and as and when the State Government requires anything from the Government of India, we will come to their help definitely.

#### **Specialised Treatment Facilities in North Eastern States**

\*5. **SHRI N. TOMBI SINGH:** Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that the people of the North-Eastern States have to incur huge expenses for getting specialised treatment available to them only in metropolitan and other developed cities;

(b) whether Government are considering to expand medical facilities in the backward areas of the North-East in terms of number of beds and sophisticated equipments etc.; and